FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MARCH 1987

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi commander cited by INA stated that Iraq's III Army Corps repulsed all the Iranian offensives on the southern front 4-5 March and recaptured territory from the enemy. Iraq inflicted "huge losses" on the attacking forces, which comprised four divisions supported by tanks and artillery. In earlier announcements over Voice of the Masses radio, the Iraqi command said the four Iranian divisions were "entirely annihilated" as Iraqi troops and artillery poured fire at the "scoundrels" while Iraqi aircraft destroyed "hundreds" of enemy vehicles.

In contrast, IRNA reported that Iranian forces "crushed" an Iraqi counterattack east of Basra and captured 12 tanks. As for the "Karbala'-7" offensive in the north, a communique cited by the agency said the Iranians killed 200 Iraqis in another attack, adding that the tally of POW's taken in the offensive had risen to 264.

Iran and the United States

President 'Ali Khamene'i told Friday worshippers that President Reagan was dishonest in saying that the initiative toward Iran was not originally aimed at securing the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, IRNA reported. Asserting that the hostage issue was very important to Reagan, Khamene'i said the U.S. President's television address shows that present American leaders "are neither honest nor do they enjoy real power."

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoys presented his replies to "the formula proposed by the other party" during talks with Syrian officials in Damascus 5 March, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio spoke of an "extremely positive" atmosphere at the talks, with agreement reached on many points. The anticipated summit between Al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will not be held until agreement is reached on a plan for a political solution, the radio said. In another development, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated that there is "absolutely no truth" in reports that Jordan will send troops to East Beirut. Speaking in an interview published by Amman's *Al-Dustur*, he stressed that this possibility is "out of the question" and the issue "has never been discussed at any level" by the Jordanian authorities.

Reporting on the situation in West Beirut, Damascus radio noted that Syrian-Lebanese security forces stormed depots for arms and stolen property. The Beirut-Sidon coastal road is now "secure and passable for all citizens" following the 12th Brigade's deployment and the departure of "illegal armed elements," the radio added.

Libya

Protest to Turkey — The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Turkish ambassador to convey Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's displeasure over the 4 March Turkish air attacks on Kurdish rebels, Tripoli television reported.

Talks With Fatah — A Fatah delegation headed by PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir held talks with Col al-Qadhdhafi in Sabha 4 March, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio disclosed, noting that the two sides reviewed current Arab and Palestinian developments. The Palestinians viewed the talks as "very positive," the radio said, and they received "exceptional attention" from Libyan officials during their visit.

Involvement in Chad — In communiques broadcast by Ndjamena radio, the Chadian authorities reported fresh fighting with Libyan forces and accused Libya of infiltrating troops into Chad through Sudanese border areas.

Defectors in Egypt — Responding to Libya's claim that Egypt is preventing the crew of a Libyan C-130 return home, MENA said there is "incontrovertible proof" that the five Libyan military personnel arrived of their own free will in Egypt and voluntarily requested asylum. The agency cited a senior Egyptian information official's remark that the Libyans have not been interviewed by Egyptian media because Egypt is "not seeking a media sensation" and it wants to avoid "unnecessary tension." According to Voice of Lebanon radio, only two of the five Libyans have requested asylum in Egypt.

Israel

The U.S. secretary of defense made a "mistake" if he did indeed assert that a strong Israel cannot advance peace, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. Peres acknowledged that the Pollard espionage case has caused a "serious" erosion of U.S.-Israeli relations and stressed the need for a "supreme effort" to overcome this problem. Israeli officials cited by Jerusalem television likewise stressed that every possible effort must now be made to improve bilateral relations and restore trust between the two countries.

Southern Sudan

The SPLA announced in a communique broadcast by its clandestine radio that SPLA forces captured the town of Pibor from government troops 4 March.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 044 6 March 1987

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

DFLP Reportedly To Move HQ's Outside Country *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 3 Mar]* ..... A 1
Fatah, DFLP, PFLP Hold Meetings in Tunis *[TAP]* ..... A 1
'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa; Makes Statement *[Sanaa]* ..... A 1
Meets With Salih *[Sanaa]* ..... A 1

OPEC AFFAIRS

Iran, Saudi Arabia To Continue Oil Talks *[IRNA]* ..... B 1
IRNA: Iran Oil Teams Sell Oil at OPEC Prices ..... B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY

Al-Bid, Soviet Ambassador Meet, Discuss Ties ..... C 1
Planning Protocol Signed With USSR 5 March ..... C 1
Party Official Meets With Bulgarian Delegation ..... C 1
Al-'Attas Visits Defense Ministry, Naval Command ..... C 1

EGYPT

Continuing Reportage on Libyan Asylum Request ..... D 1
MENA Rebuts Libyan Charges ..... D 1
Only Two Request Asylum *[Beirut VOL]* ..... D 1
Libyan Front: 'Patriotic Act' ..... D 1
Ghali Meets Separately With USSR, U.S. Envoys ..... D 1
Joint Soviet Trade Committee To Meet in Moscow ..... D 2
Kuwaiti Development Fund Head Meets With Mubarak ..... D 2
Official Views Meetings ..... D 2
Abu Ghazalah on Military Deterrence Doctrine ..... D 2
Nasirite Party Established, Holds First Meeting *[AL-SH'AB 24 Feb]* ..... D 2

IRAQ

Iranian Offensive in III Army Corps Sector ..... E 1
Offensive Said Repulsed ..... E 1
Further on Battle ..... E 1
'Crushed' Divisions Named ..... E 2
Communique No 2,594 on 4-5 Combat Operations ..... E 2
Ramadan, Delegation Leave for Bulgaria 5 March ..... E 3
Reportage on Visit ..... E 3

JORDAN

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Prime Minister *[AL-DUSTUR 5 Mar]* ..... F 1
King Husayn Visits Austrian, FRG Presidents ..... F 5
Labor Minister Leaves for Baghdad Labor Meeting ..... F 5
Amman Radio Carries West Bank Program 3 March ..... F 5
Jordan Obtains $150 Million Syndicated Bank Loan *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Mar]* ..... F 6

LEBANON

Hashim Statement on Recent Rift Within Amal *[Voice of the People]* ..... G 1
Hashim, Others Expelled *[VONR]* ..... G 1
Islamic Scouts Urge 'Peaceful Uprising' in Amal *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Fadlallah Rejects Pretext for Syrian Entry *[RFL]* ..... G 1
Negotiating Team Members Leave for Damascus *[VOL]* ..... G 1
Sham'un on Ties With Syria, Christian Conference *[RFL]* ..... G 1
PSP Reportedly Impeding 12th Brigade Deployment *[RFL]* ..... G 2
Israel Releases 21 Detainees From Al-Khiyam *[VOL]* ..... G 2

SYRIA

Joint Lebanese Talks Resume in Damascus *[Monte Carlo]* ..... H 1
Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Official ..... H 1
8 Mar Revolution Hailed; Talas on Beirut Plan ..... H 1
Al-Shar' Receives DPRK Trade Minister ..... H 2
Al-Shar' Receives Kuwait, Algerian Ambassadors ..... H 2
Economic, Scientific Protocol Signed With USSR ..... H 2
Correction on Yasin Meeting With PRAVDA Editor ..... H 2

ISRAEL

President Herzog's Visit To FRG Set for April ..... I 1
Continuing Reportage on Pollard Espionage Case ..... I 1
Peres: 'Erosion' in U.S. Ties ..... I 1
Weinberger Denies Remarks ..... I 1
MA'ARIV on Weinberger Strategy ..... I 2
Herzog on Prevention Steps ..... I 3
Rabin: Affair 'Regrettable' ..... I 3
Rosenne on U.S. Reaction ..... I 3
No-Confidence Motion Submitted ..... I 4
Peres Raps Shamir Statement on Peace Conference ..... I 4

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Turkish Envoy Summoned Over Attack on Kurds ..... Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Confers With Zambian Official *[Lusaka]* ..... Q 1
Meets Fatah Officials *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... Q 1
Sudanese Group Meets With Major al-Humaydi *[Omdurman]* ..... Q 1
Delegations Continue To Depart After Congress ..... Q 1
Pakistani Delegation ..... Q 1
Burkinabe Defense Chief ..... Q 2
Mauritanian Delegation ..... Q 2
PNC's Al-Fahum ..... Q 2
Moroccan Embassy Denies Group To Visit Israel ..... Q 2

MOROCCO

Ministry: Reports of Visit to Israel 'Baseless' ..... Q 2
Alleged Murder Attempt on Polisario Head Denied ..... Q 2
108 Polisario 'Mercenaries' Killed 2-5 March ..... Q 3
MAP Reports Shultz Message to King Hassan II ..... Q 3

SUDAN

Radio SPLA: 'Brain' Behind Militia Killed ..... Q 3
SPLA Warns Bentiu, Mayom Inhabitants To Evacuate *[Radio SPLA]* ..... Q 3

SPLA Reportedly Overruns Garrison, Captures Pibor *[Radio SPLA]* ..... Q 4
39 Casualties in SPLA Ambush, Fighting 26 Feb *[Radio SPLA]* ..... Q 4

WESTERN SAHARA

Moroccan Leaders Accused of Assassination Plot *[Algiers]* ..... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Chekol Receives GDR Foreign Trade Minister ..... R 1
Sees Visitors Off ..... R 1
Kenyan Delegation Attends Joint Committee Talks ..... R 1
Mengistu Meets Delegation ..... R 1
Cooperation Agreements Signed ..... R 1

SOMALIA

Hamud Returns From Addis Ababa OAU Meeting ..... R 2

UGANDA

NRM's Kigongo Meets With DPRK Official ..... R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

CAR Envoy Visits, Comments on Bokassa Trial ..... S 1

CHAD

'Deep Concern' Over Libyan Use of Sudan Territory ..... S 1
High Command Details Fighting at Wour, Kirdimi ..... S 1

ZAIRE

President Mobutu Meets With FRG Foreign Minister ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Delegations Arrive for Anniversary Celebrations ..... T 1
Rawlings Meets Soviets, Others ..... T 1
Ivorian Delegation Participates *[Abidjan]* ..... T 1
Zambian Prime Minister, Others ..... T 1
Commentary Reviews 30 Years of Independence ..... T 1
GHANAIAN TIMES on Security Measures at Airport ..... T 2

GUINEA

Soviet Trade Representative on Increased Activity ..... T 2
French Fund Grants Loan for Recovery Plan ..... T 2

LIBERIA

New Teachers' Association Replaces NULT ..... T 3

MALI

USSR Grants Loan for Transportation of Goods ..... T 3
Prime Minister Receives DPRK Party Delegation ..... T 3

NIGERIA

Babangida Returns Following Operation in Paris ..... T 3
OBSERVER Urges President's Attention to Problems ..... T 4

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Polish Party Delegation Arrives on 4-Day Visit *[PANA]* ..... U 1
Dos Santos Meets Group ..... U 1
Visit Ends; Communique Issued ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks ..... U 1
Talks Begin ..... U 1
Delegates on Talks ..... U 1

NAMIBIA

Academics, Businessmen Hold Talks With SWAPO *[Umtata]* ..... U 2
Voice of Namibia on SWAPO Military Successes ..... U 2
Court Hears Testimony of Detainee Beatings *[SAPA]* ..... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Heunis Gives Figures on Black Resettlement ..... U 3
Afrikaner 'Mob' Attacks NP Offices, Cinema ..... U 4
Police Arrest Witness During Inquest Hearing ..... U 4
Tutu Rejects Violence, Threatens To Sue SABC ..... U 5
Minister Reveals Release of Security Prisoners ..... U 5
Justice Minister Reports 114,000 in Prisons ..... U 5
SAIRR Report Finds Drop in Political Violence ..... U 5
Government Announces New Aid Program for Farmers ..... U 6
Official Reports Illegal Immigration Increasing ..... U 6
Information Bureau 5 March Unrest Report ..... U 6
Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems ..... U 6

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Accuses RSA of Planning 'Massive' Attack ..... U 8

ZIMBABWE

Chissano Says Malawi Forces To Protect Routes *[Johannesburg THE STAR 5 Mar]* ..... U 8
Meets Press, Departs ..... U 8

DFLP Reportedly To Move HQ's Outside Country

JN041538 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have emphasized to *Al-Ittihad* in Damascus that during the past few days the DFLP has gathered all of its political, security, and military documents and records and transferred them to the Soviet Embassy in Damascus to move them outside Syrian territory. The sources said taking this step indicates a decision has been made to move the DFLP's Headquarters outside Syria after political contradictions between the DFLP leadership and the Syrian Government were exacerbated despite mediation efforts, such as those initiated by the Soviet Union, to help reconcile the two sides' positions and stands.

The sources added: These differences are basically caused by the fact that Damascus has been asking the DFLP to take a more decisive stand on Palestinian political issues, especially those related to the legitimacy of Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO. These sources said the DFLP's agreement to attend a PNC session in Algiers was another cause for the differences between the DFLP and the Syrian Government.

Fatah, DFLP, PFLP Hold Meetings in Tunis

LD061310 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, 6 Mar (TAP) — WAFA reported that a meeting was held between a Fatah movement delegation led by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the movement's Central Committee, and a PFLP delegation led by George Habash, the front's secretary general, in the Libyan capital on Wednesday evening in the presence of prominent officials from the two movements.

The Fatah movement's delegation has also held a meeting with DFLP secretary general Nayif Hawatimah.

WAFA pointed out that the latest developments in the Palestinian situation were discussed during the two meetings, particularly the issue of Palestinian national unity and the situation in Lebanon in light of the dangers and sieges facing the Palestinian camps.

According to WAFA, the conferees stressed the need to consolidate coordination and cohesion within the Palestinian camps and agreed to hold similar meetings in the next few days.

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa; Makes Statement

JN051400 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit of several days to our country, during which he will meet with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said his visit comes within the framework of the efforts aimed at following up on the activities of the Arab League Camps War Good Offices Committee, which is charged with tackling the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the aggression to which these camps are being subjected, the continuous siege, and the planned starvation of the people in these camps.

The Palestinian leader referred to the role played by our country in the committee, a role that reflects eagerness to save the Palestinian residents from the crisis they have been facing.

Concluding his statement, Brother Abu 'Ammar said he will discuss with the brother president and other brother officials the results of the meetings of the committee, the Arab endeavors exerted in this direction, and the current efforts to bring about the convocation of an Arab summit as soon as possible. He added that he will also discuss with the brother president and brother officials various developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

The Palestinian leader was received at the airport by a number of brother officials; Brother Abu Humayd, commander of the Sabra [Palestinian] forces; and a number of Palestinian revolution cadres.

Meets With Salih

JN051403 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Assembly, received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, at noon today. The two leaders discussed a number of issues of common interest to both the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Hasan Makkai, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Brother Abu Zaki, Fatah Revolutionary Council member; Brother Jamal 'Arafat, the PLO's representative in Sanaa; and Lieutenant Colonel Abu Humayd, commander of the Sabra camp.

OPEC AFFAIRS

Iran, Saudi Arabia To Continue Oil Talks

LD221214 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 22 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Sunday that Iran and Saudi Arabia will continue their talks as well as their supervision and control over oil market. He said the two countries will also increase their efforts to get OPEC member countries to further cooperation among themselves.

The oil minister said that the ongoing meeting in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, is being held in this regard and that outcome of the meeting, which he said would serve to stabilize the price of oil and to guarantee the implementation of fixed prices would be fully supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the possibility of holding an extraordinary meeting of OPEC member-states, Aqazadeh said that he is confident that the current trend in oil market and of upward prices is pretty much here to stay. He reiterated that the organisation's members would hold an extraordinary session, if necessary, to defend the oil prices by reducing their production ceiling.

IRNA: Iran Oil Teams Sell Oil at OPEC Prices

LD051858 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] London, March 5, IRNA — Representatives of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in London and Tokyo negotiating with major buyers have insisted on selling oil at official OPEC prices.

An informed NIOC official here added that Iran's determination to protect oil prices, along with Saudi Arabia, has had an important impact on lifting market confidence towards OPEC.

In the past three days oil prices worldwide have increased by more than a dollar per barrel, following the dismissal of reports that OPEC was overproducing.

In London Wednesday, a large cargo of North Sea Brent crude was sold at dlrs 17.90 per barrel for April delivery, a sharp increase compared to Monday when prices dipped below dlrs 16.

"The NIOC brothers who are now in Tokyo and London have told customers that they must purchase Iranian oil based on official (OPEC) prices," the informed official, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

"News of the (London, Tokyo) talks will eventually spread in the market and the market will accept that the National Iranian Oil Company will sell oil only at official prices and this will have an important overall impact."

He added Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, was also resisting pressure from buyers to sell below OPEC prices which are set at around dlrs 18 a barrel.

Iran's oil minister has started a tour of Gabon, Libya and Algeria, three African OPEC members, to strengthen cooperation on market stability among the organization members. A high-ranking Oil Ministry official is also currently holding talks with Arab oil producing states in the Persian Gulf.

Brent oil prices for April delivery opened at dlrs 16.85 per barrel Thursday but remained steady at dlrs 17.15 in the afternoon.

Analysts now discount earlier reports that OPEC is producing more than its 15.8 million barrels a day ceiling set last December. Many analysts expect firmer free market, or spot oil prices as OPEC members continue to refuse buying offers at less than official prices and restrain production.

PDRY

Al-Bid, Soviet Ambassador Meet, Discuss Ties

EA051854 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, received Comrade Albert Rachkov, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and Soviet ambassador in Aden, at his office in the Central Committee Secretariat this morning. The two officials discussed cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries and reviewed the progress of the efforts made and steps taken to implement the results of the visit of the brother secretary general to the USSR and his discussions with the Soviet leadership.

The brother secretary general expressed gratification at the extensive work being done by various organs and party and government organizations in this sphere. He said comprehensive cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the USSR is increasing in strength and breadth in the context of growing Soviet-Yemeni friendship.

The brother secretary general praised the successes that have been and are still being achieved by the development projects implemented in our country with Soviet aid. This aid performs an important role in developing our national economy and improving the life of our people and has created vast horizons for the march of the Yemeni toilers towards economic and social progress. He stressed our party's and our country's determination to continue consolidating the pillars of the intimate militant relations between the two parties of the two friendly countries in various spheres.

Planning Protocol Signed With USSR 5 March

EA051839 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] A protocol was signed this morning at the Ministry of Planning following the third session of the planning subcommittee of the Permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union. The protocol covers a number of issues regarding planning, training, and distributing manpower in the industrial field; planning the building of houses; and exchanging experience in planning methods and its applications.

Brother 'Abdallah Sa'id Abaddan, deputy minister of planning and chairman of the subcommittee, signed the protocol on behalf of the Yemeni side, and Comrade Alista Abozov, member of the USSR State Committee for Planning and head of the equilibriums section for overall productive capacities and control of their implementation, on behalf of the Soviet side. [passage omitted]

Party Official Meets With Bulgarian Delegation

EA051111 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Qasim 'Abd al-Rabb, Central Committee member and chairman of the Higher Committee for Party Control, met in his office this morning with a Bulgarian party delegation, which is currently visiting our country, led by Comrade Nacho Papazov, Central Committee member and chairman of the party Central Control-Auditing Commission.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Qasim 'Abd al-Rabb welcomed Comrade Papazov and the delegation accompanying him, stressing his visit would contribute toward strengthening and deepening the militant relations between the two parties of the two friendly countries, on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Democratic Yemen and People's Bulgaria.

Al-'Attas Visits Defense Ministry, Naval Command

EA042122 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and People's Supreme Council Presidium chairman, has made an inspection visit to the Defense Ministry, where he was received by Brothers Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, Political Bureau candidate member and defense minister; Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, Central Committee member, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; deputy chiefs of staff in the Political Department; and directors of departments. During the visit, the brother chairman of the Presidium held a meeting with the ministry's leadership, during which he was given a detailed briefing on the progress of the ministry's work and of implementation of the Armed Forces military and political programs.

During the meeting, Brother Al-'Attas expressed deep gratification at the successes achieved by the Defense Ministry since the great victory over the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy. He praised the efforts made to enhance the Armed Forces combat readiness and capabilities.

Brother Al-'Attas also made an inspection visit to the naval forces command, during which he was briefed on its activities in various military, political, and educational fields. He also inspected the forces school and some naval units. He expressed admiration for the sincere efforts being made by the command and members of the naval forces to restore and promote the combat readiness of the naval forces in keeping pace with the general achievements of the Armed Forces. Brother al-'Attas stressed the special attention given by the party and state leadership to our Armed Forces and their readiness to give every necessary support to enable the forces to carry out their national tasks properly. He thanked all the brothers in the leadership of the ministry, commanders of the services, and all the valiant officers, NCO's and soldiers for the efforts made during the past period. [passage omitted]

Continuing Reportage on Libyan Asylum Request

MENA Rebuts Libyan Charges

NC051648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — Arab and foreign observers and correspondents in Cairo have praised the calm and objective way the Egyptian media have handled the issue of the Libyan C-130 military aircraft that landed in Egypt with five Libyan military personnel on board. These personnel have asked for political asylum and include two officers with the rank of lieutenant colonel, a second lieutenant in the Libyan Air Force, and three NCO's [figures and ranks as received]

These observers and correspondents have noted that Egyptian press and media entities have all been very careful not to use this issue to create a "counterpropaganda demonstration," despite the potential for media and political exploitation inherent in the situation.

They have also noted that the Egyptian press has reported on the issue routinely, while other media, such as radio and television, have dealt with the issue objectively and extremely quietly. Egyptian television has shown only film clips of the Libyan aircraft and pictures of the personnel who were on board.

MENA's political editor writes: Statements by Egyptian officials on the Libyan military aircraft issue have been extremely objective. A senior Egyptian official has stated that Egypt is dealing with the issue calmly, balancing the wishes of Libyan citizens and others who seek asylum in Egypt with a desire to avoid an incident that could lead to further tension with a fraternal Arab country. While this senior Egyptian official underlined Egypt's clear stand on this issue, The *Jamahiriyah News Agency*, which was cited by other agencies, reported that the Libyan military personnel made an emergency landing and have been forced to ask for political asylum in Egypt.

MENA's political editor has learned that there is incontrovertible proof that the five Libyan military personnel arrived in the Libyan military plane of their own free will. Definitive evidence of this is provided by the discussion and dialogue that took place between the crew members while the plane was still airborne en route to Abu Sunbul Airport in Egypt and their airbase in the Libyan Al-Kufrah oasis. This dialogue proves the request for asylum was a voluntary act by the Libyan pilots. Libya knows this as well as Egypt.

Furthermore, the voice recording now in the possession of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority contains everything said from the moment the crew of the Libyan military plane first asked for permission to land at an Egyptian airport, and proves the request for permission to land was accompanied by a request for political asylum in Egypt.

It should be mentioned here that the principles and values in which Egypt believes require it to accept those who ask for asylum of their own free will. In addition, Egypt, with well-known traditions reflected in its Constitution, cannot refuse asylum to anyone who requests it and cannot surrender those who seek refuge on its territory of their own free will.

In keeping with Egypt's calm and objective position toward the matter of the Libyan military plane, a senior Egyptian information official, asked why Egyptian television did not interview the five Libyan military men, replied: "It would have been easy for us to present the Libyan brothers who voluntarily asked for political asylum to the entire world in a television interview. We did not, however, do that because weare not seeking a media sensation."

The official added: "From the start we have sought to ensure that the matter did not get blown out of all proportion, because we do not wish to create unnecessary tension. The policy to which the Egyptian leaders are committed is consistently characterized by sobriety and the avoidance of escalation and tension."

Only Two Request Asylum

NC060548 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] It has been learned in Cairo that only two of the Libyan plane crew have asked for political asylum in Egypt. The remaining three of the five did not show a similar desire.

Libyan Front: 'Patriotic Act'

NC051821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has described the flight to Egypt of five Libyan military personnel in their aircraft last Monday as a patriotic act embodying the Libyan Armed Forces' rejection of Al-Qadhdhafi's rule and the criminality, tyranny, and barbarism it represents. It said these military men's action is an expression of the dignity, pride, and courage for which the Libyan Armed Forces are known.

In a statement issued today, the front lauded the honorable Egyptian stand regarding these men and expressed its profound appreciation for Egyptian efforts on behalf of the Libyan people. It praised Egypt's support and succor for Libyans, by endorsing their just and legitimate struggle and providing protection for Libyan citizens. The front asserted such a stand is not unusual for Egypt, which is famous for nobility and chivalry.

The front urged officers, NCO's, and soldiers of the Libyan Army to be conscious of their national duty and adopt positive stands expressing their total fealty to the Libyan people and absolute rejection of Al-Qadhdhafi's barbaric and terrorist rule. It urges them to put a stop to Al-Qadhdhafi's irresponsible conduct toward the Libyan Armed Forces in involving them in unsuccessful and futile adventures.

Ghali Meets Separately With USSR, U.S. Envoys

NC051539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met separately today with Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, and Jock Covey, U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo.

In these discussions, Dr Ghali explained the importance of the meeting to be held on 11 March by the committee set up at the OAU's 12th summit conference. This meeting will be attended by the committee's nine member-states, as well as the OAU secretary general. Developments in the Horn of Africa region were also reviewed during Dr Ghali's meetings with the two diplomats.

It is recalled that the meeting of the African summit committee in Cairo is the first of its kind to be held outside Addis Ababa since the establishment of the OAU in 1963. The meeting is taking place at President Husni Mubarak's invitation.

Joint Soviet Trade Committee To Meet in Moscow

NC051858 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo. They reviewed bilateral relations in various fields and the means of boosting them.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said it was decided to hold meetings of the joint Egyptian-Soviet trade committee in Moscow beginning 18 March to discuss expanding financial and economic cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union and solving existing problems.

Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa is to leave for Moscow on 17 March to head Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Soviet trade committee.

Kuwaiti Development Fund Head Meets With Mubarak

NC051124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Dr 'Abd al-Raziq al-Kindari, head of the Kuwaiti interests section in Cairo, and Badr al-Humaydi, Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development director general, this morning.

Official Views Meetings

NC051558 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Badr al-Humaydi, Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development director general. Following the meeting, the Kuwaiti official said his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning dealt with relations between Egypt and the Kuwaiti fund for development.

Al-Humaydi said he and Dr 'Abd al-Majid discussed projects in which the fund is participating, particularly the Rosetta coast protection project and renovating and improving pharmaceutical factories. Discussions also dealt with problems in the fund's participation in Egyptian projects. He added Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed Egypt's desire to strengthen Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation and to solve all the problems facing investors.

The director general of the Kuwaiti fund for development said a delegation from the Egyptian investment authority will visit Kuwait at the end of this month to discuss Kuwaiti investors' participation in a number of projects of the Egyptian plan for 1987-92. He added his talks in Cairo have stressed the possibility of increasing Kuwaiti investors' participation in Egyptian projects.

Abu Ghazalah on Military Deterrence Doctrine

NC051527 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has reiterated that Egypt's military doctrine is based on deterrence to prevent aggression. He said: Our strategy is a "peaceful defensive" that will deter anyone who might be fooled into committing aggression against us and lead them to reconsider and be fully convinced of the dire consequences of such aggression.

In a speech today to the final session of the sixth military strategy seminar, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the deterrent-based Egyptian strategy is based on Islamic creed and the teachings of the Holy Koran and the Prophet. He stressed Egypt consistently develops its military strategy within this context. He said: Time and advances in modern technology represent two vital factors that force us to develop ourselves constantly so we can achieve national objectives.

He added the state in its entirety must draw up a military doctrine, defining the supreme national objectives so the Armed Forces can then determine the threats and dangers facing the country and the appropriate strength of the Armed Forces to thwart these threats.

Regarding the Arab military doctrine, Abu Ghazalah told the seminar: We should begin our search now for an Arab military doctrine aimed at defending the Arab nation, as well as defending and entrenching Islam. He noted the Arab nation's glories had been lost with the passage of time. In this respect, he stressed the search for this Arab doctrine is proper because the Arab nation is a single nation — whether we like it or not, and whether others like it or not — and has the characteristics of a single nation. He added: This objective will be achieved eventually. The Arab nation will be a strong one, with a voice heard throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Nasirite Party Established, Holds First Meeting

PM051035 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 24 Feb 86 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Nasirite Party Holds its First Founding Meeting"]

[Text] The Nasirite Socialist Arab Party [al-Hizb al-'Arabi al-Ishtiraki al-Nasiri] — which is being established — held its first founding conference on 21 and 22 February in Jamal 'Abd

al-Nasir hall at the NPUG Party premises following more than one postponement in the past few months.

The conference meetings were attended by a number of prominent Arab personalities. These included Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, a Palestinian thinker; Dr Khayr al-Din Hasib, director of the Arab Studies Center in Beirut; and Jamal al-Sha'ir from Jordan.

After Farid 'Abd al-Karim, representative of the founders, delivered the party's speech. He was followed by representatives of the NPUG Party and the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] and lawyer Nabil al-Hilali. They were followed by speakers from the Arab countries, which included Palestinian woman struggler Samirah Abu Ghazalah; Ambassador Muhammad al-Mayli on behalf of the Algerian FLN; Hamad al-Farhan from Jordan; Mu'in Bashshur from Lebanon; and former Kuwaiti parliamentary Speaker Ahmad al-Khatib.

The conference opening session was chaired by former War Minister General Muhammad Fawzi, being the most senior in age among the members.

At the end of the opening session the conference committees began their meetings.

Farid 'Abd al-Karim said in his speech the founding of the party is taking place at a time when it is being rejected by Egypt's rulers, which goes to prove the legitimacy of our birth from the womb of the Arab nation and its peoples.

He stressed the establishment of this party is a national necessity on which there is no turning back and there will be no compromise. We are not looking for conflict with other parties, quasi-parties, groups, or with any authority or individual, he added. We, the founders, are members of a party that can choose its battles, plan for them, and fight them alone.

Discussing the dangers of founding a party, he said it would be necessary to forge internal and foreign relations in such a manner that under no circumstances will penetration or betrayal of the party be allowed. We do not want any Sadatist seed to be sown in its fertile soil, he said.

Iranian Offensive in III Army Corps Sector

Offensive Said Repulsed

JN051452 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1350 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,593 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people. O sons of the glorious Arab nation. Once again, the Persians' stray and mad dogs, in accordance with orders from their big dog, their playful charlatan, rush against the defensive positions of your lofty sons in the III Army Corps from., toward the same objective, the city of cities [Basra]. Once again, God has shaken the earth under their feet. They were misguided and deviated from the right course, and they fell into hell, their miserable abode, to be burned by the fire of the zealous Iraqis, whom almighty God has put on the right course to protect honor and banners. Our martyrs went to Paradise, wrapped with the symbol of patriotism and patriotic honor, Iraq's great flag.

O glorious Iraqis, after the enemy was defeated in the battles on 3 March and the previous night by our triumphant, heroic Khalid ibn al-Walid forces, the enemy imagined that Iraq's heroes were weakened as a result of continuous fighting on the fronts of the 2d and 5th divisions. In accordance with this illusion, into which the enemy usually falls, the enemy increased the number of its attacking scoundrels more than in their previous attempt in the hope that they would be fresh and more active, so that they would achieve their hostile objectives or at least part of these objectives.

According to this foolish calculation, which was motivated by grudges and bitter failure, the suspect ones sent their dogs to attack the defensive positions of the III Army Corps manned by the heroic 5th Division at 2140 [1840 GMT] last night. They attacked on three axes using a force exceeding four divisions of the charlatan Khomeyni guards supported by tanks. The battle, during which three abortive attacks were launched until 1230 today, ended with the result you expect from those who protect Iraq's territory and honor, as well as the Arab nation's honor. The scoundrels were defeated after the corpses of their dead were burned with the strong fire of your sons, O zealous Iraqis. Your territory and your sons' positions were kept chaste, pure of any of the invaders' filth.

O history, be witness to the fact that the sun of your bright eras in Arab annals has again risen on the land of Iraq. O Arabs, be witnesses to the fact that your Iraqi brothers and cousins will, under all circumstances and regardless of how long the fighting continues, be as you wish and expect them: protectors of territory, honor, principles, and mission. And you, O charlatan in Tehran, who uses your turban as an incubator for devils and for hostile, rancorous ideas, we swear by the name of the Almighty God, the souls of the honest people, and our righteous martyrs that we will disappoint you, we the sons of great Iraq and the ancestors of the blessed prophet's family. God willing, history will record that God has supported the Iraqis and disgraced you because we are right and you are the branch of an evil tree. Falsehood has overridden you and sent you after unattainable whims and dreams. Your year will end on 21 March, a year which you intended for evil. Basra, the great city, will remain lofty and mighty, embraced by the hearts and arms of the faithful people. Your great lie will then be exposed to your peoples and the most painful side of your failure and inability will emerge. You will roll down to hell, cursed and with no sorrow. The shouts of "God is great" will rise from the throats of the Iraqis and all the faithful Arabs and Muslims thanking God for his great support. God is great and accursed be the lowly ones.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1987

Further on Battle

JN051758 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1655 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 5 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O God, exterminate them all. O lofty Iraqis, following the Armed Forces General Command's communique No 2,593 issued today, in the battles between 2140 [1840 GMT] last night and 1230 today your enemy sustained very heavy losses, unprecedented in such a short period. The four divisions and the additional independent regiments and brigades that your enemy sent into battle on three axes, through which it wanted to achieve its evil ambitions, have been entirely annihilated. The heroic role played by the following men was effective in annihilating the enemy forces and winning the battle for our beloved Iraq. These men helped safeguard our land and keep the city of cities, Basra, a shining pearl among Iraq's cities, which are protected and guarded by lofty men and their fire. The commanders in this triumphant and bright battle in the military history of our Iraq and Arab nation are the following:

1. Staff Lieutenant General Dia' al-Din Jamal, commander of the heroic III Army Corps.

2. Staff Major General Salah 'Abbud Mahmud, commander of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim forces, which were targeted by the enemy and which bravely confronted the offensives last night and today until they annihilated the enemy forces and flew the banners of victory over their positions.

3. Staff Brigadier General Mahmud Hammad al-Juburi, commander of the heroic Khalid ibn al-Walid forces, which confronted the enemy offensive on the night of 2-3 March 1987.

Those men showed skills, determination, wisdom, and courage that delighted every Iraqi citizen and that expressed the essence of the Arab citizen and the determination of the new Iraqi citizen. They led these battles through the effective implementation, courage, and capability of the staff officers, the formations' commanders, their assistants, and the commanders of the regiments, companies, platoons, and squads, and all of the fighters, soldiers, and officers who, through words and deeds, proved that they deserve the leader's confidence and love and the people's satisfaction and pride. They deserve good deeds. They are the knights of the battles and the hawks that cannot be shaken from the defensive battles by the barbaric wind.

The name of each of them is worthy to be known, and you will know when each of them is rewarded for his heroism, effort, and struggle. O proud Iraqis, the infantrymen held out in their positions, each like a lion protecting his den and destroying the attacking forces with a ceaseless stream of bullets. They pounced on the enemy like death chasing its scared prey. Your gigantic artillery played a role unparallelled in wars, burning every inch of land with its shells. It worked day and night exterminating the enemies — both individuals and groups — with its fire. Your men's guns were not worn out, and the hands of men, who directed shells toward their targets with unmatched accuracy, were not exhausted. This was also the case with the armored forces, whose shells and machine guns did not stop paving their way to the chests of the enemies, thanks to efficient, brave, and experienced men.

As usual, your Air Force aircraft, commanded by glorious men, attacked the Khomeyniites' supplies, destroyed their equipment, crushed their troop concentrations, and stirred terror, panic, and death in the hearts of their scoundrels. The bold Army aircraft and the helicopter cavaliers deserved your good opinion. They controlled the battle skies and turned everything the eyes could see into ashes. They destroyed hundreds of vehicles, which the enemy sent to reinforce its troops. They wiped them out, along with all the scoundrels in them. They robbed the enemy of any chance to send in reinforcements. The remnants of its forward forces screamed for help, but no one responded. The Khomeyniites began to curse and blame each other.

O proud Iraqis, these are the men who suckled the milk of glory from the Iraqi women and who were brought up under the guidance of the best fathers. These are your sons, who acted upon the guidance of their great leader and father, Saddam Husayn. They took him as an example of patience, wisdom, and courage. They pinned on him honorable hopes and great ambitions, work, and struggle. Long live the great leader, who made us wage this war in defense of the homeland and its honor. Long live our triumphant Armed Forces. Blessed be the brave III Army Corps soldiers — commander, officers, and other ranks. Praised be God, who granted us the victory He promised for His faithful worshippers. He never fails to fulfill a promise.

[Dated] 5 March 1987

'Crushed' Divisions Named

JN052011 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1946 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 5 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The enemy forces that tried to attack our strong positions in the sector of the heroic III Army Corps and to realize the Khomeyniites' sinister hopes were destroyed. The overwhelming majority of their scoundrels were crushed, some were taken prisoner, and a few fled. The forces involved in the attack are as follows:
1. The 5th Division, Khomeyni guards;
2. The 8th Division, Khomeyni guards;
3. The 17th Division, Khomeyni guards;
4. The 25th Division, Khomeyni guards;
5. The 27th Division, Khomeyni guards;
6. The 32d Division, Khomeyni guards;
7. The 33d Division, Khomeyni guards;
8. The 105th Division, Khomeyni guards;
9. A Khomeyni guard brigade.

This is the punishment of anyone who attacks the land of missions. To hell and wretched destiny, O knaves. Let the world be a witness that we will send your remnants to hell. We seek success and help from God.

[Dated] 5 March 1987

Communique No 2,594 on 4-5 Combat Operations

JN051810 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,594 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, thus giving a new lesson to the scoundrel Khomeyniites, who regardless of what they do, lie or reorganize their remnants, continue to be too weak to undermine Iraq or confront it on the battlefield. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force shared with the heroic III Army Corps today a marvelous victory over the enemy through the accurate support for our valiant forces in this sector. Our gigantic Air Force turned scoundrel Khomeyniites, enemy weapons, vehicles, and equipment into burning rubble and shreds. After 88 combat missions, the valiant hawks returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to base, protected by God. Blessed be these faithful men.

2. The Army helicopter gunships play a role in every victory achieved by our valiant Armed Forces over the tyrant enemy. The valiant helicopter knights carried out 109 daring combat missions today, through which they provided marvelous support for our valiant units in the III Army Corps sector while they are carrying out the Great Harvest operations. They scored destructive hits against the scoundrel Khomeyniites, their weapons, and equipment. The zealous knights returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to their bases, protected by God. Blessed be these faithful men.

3. The heroic VII Army Corps today directed fatal fire against the enemies, thus providing great support for the III Army Corps, pushing numbers of the defeated Khomeyniites to an inevitable death, and turning quantities of their weapons, vehicles, and equipment into burning rubble. In addition to this, the glorious soldiers of the VII Army Corps destroyed a tubular launcher, damaged three vehicles and killed their personnel, destroyed large numbers of infantry positions and killed large numbers of enemy personnel in them, and blew up four ammunition dumps.

4. At 1130 today, an enemy helicopter attempted to approach our forward units in the III Army Corps sector. Our brave antiair-

craft men confronted and downed it. It was seen falling in flames east of the Al-Asmak Lake. Blessed be the men of our antiaircraft in the heroic III Army Corps.

5. The vicious and rancorous Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling damaged a number of civilian houses and property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1987

Ramadan, Delegation Leave for Bulgaria 5 March

JN051618 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Sofia today at the head of a delegation in response to an invitation by Bulgarian Premier Georgi Ivanov Atanasov.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he carries a message from President Saddam Husayn to Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov dealing with bilateral cooperation affairs, the importance of expanding bilateral relations in all fields, and Iraq's satisfaction with the progress of these relations.

The deputy prime minister added that his visit falls within the framework of consolidating and expanding relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and friendly countries. He said he will discuss the promotion of bilateral relations in the economic, scientific, technical, and trade fields with the Bulgarian leadership for this year and the future through the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian Committee for Economic Cooperation at its 18th session, which will be held during the visit.

The RCC member indicated he will acquaint the Bulgarian leaders with the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the Iranian regime's continued attacks on Iraqi territory. He will also affirm that the Iraqi leadership, which is continuing its serious and sincere efforts to end the war and establish peace, will simultaneously provide all of the requirements to double its defensive capability to annihilate the attacking Iranian waves.

The accompanying delegation is composed of 'Aziz Salih Al-Numan, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform and head of the Iraqi side to the joint committee; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Irrigation; and a number of officials in various ministries.

Reportage on Visit

For reportage on the official visit of First Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan to Bulgaria, see the Bulgaria section of the 6 March Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Prime Minister

JN050953 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 87
pp 12-13

["Full text" of an interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i published in the London-based Saudi newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* on 3 and 4 March — date and place not given]

[Text] *[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat]* Jordan's active diplomacy over the past 2 years has been instrumental in the EC decision supporting an international conference on the Middle East. How does Jordan view the start of the process to convene the conference? Does the conference have a chance given Israel's absolute rejection and the Likud position?

[Al-Rifa'i] We regard the recent European decision a victory for Arab diplomacy. This is the first time the European group agrees to the principle of the international conference with the participation of all parties concerned. This was first proposed by His Majesty King Husayn, and a tremendous effort was exerted to convince the Western nations of the soundness of this approach, given that it had already acquired the unanimous support of the Arab states in Fes, the Islamic summit, the nonaligned summit, and the OAU summit. The European agreement is to be added to all the already mentioned agreements.

Naturally, such a European decision does not mean the conference will be held immediately. There is still a strong Israeli opposition and a U.S. reservation. This reservation is not connected with the principle of the conference, but is primarily connected with the Israeli stand, which, as usual, reflects on the U.S. position in most cases. Israel rejects the idea of an international conference not because it objects to negotiations or to attempts at a peaceful solution within the framework of this conference but because, as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said recently, it fears the negotiations will result in its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, because the conference will be convened under the international legitimacy to implement the international community's resolution. Israel insists on direct negotiations, completely ignoring the framework of these negotiations. It wants to go to the heart of the problem based on the premise that any direct negotiations will be based on the status quo and the de facto situation without referring to any international resolution or legitimacy.

In contrast to this, we adhere to Resolution 242, which enjoys world support because its first article deals with the impermissibility of acquiring the territory of others by force or war and calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory, followed by the establishment of a just and permanent peace. Israel tried to change the formulation of this resolution by speaking about Israeli withdrawal to internationally recognized borders. Therefore, Israel wants to give itself the right to determine the form of its withdrawal. Thus, Israel rejects the conference and the U.S. expresses reservation. But the European decision, coupled with that of various world bodies, is positive and in the right direction. These decisions bolster the Arab position and help us continue our pressure on the United States to develop its position.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] The Europeans have past experience. They issued the Venice Declaration in 1980, which has been mere ink on paper without any practical application. What is required from the European group, after its recent decision? Is it to support and work for the international conference?

[Al-Rifa'i] Naturally, European moves are necessary so their decision will not remain frozen. We hope the European states will take a stand and play a role in reconciling the U.S. and Soviet stands. Europe can be the bridge to connect the two superpowers. When King Husayn spoke about the need to make the permanent UN Security Council member-states participate in the conference, the aim was not to let the superpowers discuss the issue among themselves or alone. This would happen if they discussed any Middle East issue because discussions during a U.S.-USSR meeting always revolve around their own important issues. They want to agree on Star Wars, arms control, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua; therefore, any agreement on the Middle East will be subject to their agreeing on issues that have nothing to do with the region.

The presence of the European factor will focus attention on the Middle East and the international conference in any superpower summit or contacts.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Any move toward peace or war must be at least accompanied by an acceptable level of Arab mobilization. What are the prospects for convening the postponed Arab summit?

[Al-Rifa'i] The efforts are continuing to convene the Arab summit. However, the summit cannot be an end in itself. When it is convened, the summit should aim to arrive at a unified Arab stand to bolster Arab moves and tackle Arab problems at all levels. Thus, the contacts are continuing to find an extensive background and common denominator to make the summit succeed in the event of its convocation. We hope the Arab leaders will be able to arrive at this stage, God willing.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Will the next summit be an emergency or ordinary summit?

[Al-Rifa'i] A summit is a summit; the name is unimportant. The mere meeting of leaders and at the highest level, regardless of the name, will pave the way to achieve a unified Arab stand, God willing.

[*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*] How do you assess Saudi efforts in this regard, and how do you view the relations between the two fraternal Kingdoms?

[Al-Rifa'i] We, in Jordan, regard Saudi Arabia as our big sister and regard King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as His Majesty King Husayn's elder brother. We always mention with gratitude Saudi Arabia's support to Jordan at all times and under all circumstances and appreciate and value Saudi Arabia's support for us and its fulfillment of its commitments toward us. We also appreciate the constant and continuing efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques to heal the rift, achieve solidarity by eliminating disputes, and unify ranks to serve the Arab world and Islamic nation.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Jordan's distinguished relations prompted it to mediate between the Arab brothers with the aim of achieving reconciliation. His Majesty King Husayn has been exerting active and extensive efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria for the past 2 years. To what extent has this mediation been successful?

[Al-Rifa'i] We, in Jordan, believe in Arab solidarity and do not see any justification for any disputes between any two fraternal states. We base our moves on this basis and out of our conviction that no disputes or differences over viewpoints or moves should be reflected on the joint Arab stand and strong cooperation. On this basis, His Majesty King Husayn is continuously trying to act as an effective, influential, and benevolent factor in eliminating differences between the Arab countries. We do not consider the issue of removing and overcoming differences as mediation because mediation should not come into play within the one family whose members may differ. The members of the one family should sit together and try to remove the reasons for their differences. Actually, continuing efforts are being made to arrive at a situation where there will be no Arab differences through coordination with a number of fraternal states that are members of the one family. We will continue our attempts and hope, God willing, to achieve the objective of removing all obstacles that hamper collective Arab action.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Are there any specific conditions by Iraq and Syria for reconciliation between them?

[Al-Rifa'i] The issue is not one of conditions. In fact, there are no conditions. As I have said, there are reasons that led to a certain situation. The important thing is to remove, ignore, or rise above these reasons to return to normalcy. No abnormal state of affairs can continue.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Are there any Jordanian efforts aimed to reconcile Syria and Egypt and to bring their views closer together?

[Al-Rifa'i] We have good relations with Egypt and believe it has a major role to play in Arab action. We also believe in Egypt's return to the Arab ranks and the need for normal relations among Arab brothers. Egypt needs the Arab world and the Arab world needs Egypt. We do not believe dealing with Egypt should be judged on the basis of a certain period of time during which a certain policy was practiced. The important thing is to look to the future. Jordan has distinguished and good relations with Egypt and Syria and the Arab brothers and is, therefore, always trying to bring views closer.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] What is Jordan's stand on the deployment of Syrian forces in West Beirut? Also, will Jordan send troops to East Beirut to act as observers? Does Jordan see any near solution to the Lebanese crisis in light of the recent talks between His Majesty King Husayn with both Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil?

[Al-Rifa'i] The situation in Lebanon is tragic. Lebanon is a country that is committing suicide, where the law of the jungle prevails and the militias rule. It has become a divided and destroyed country, and we fear that if this situation continues it could lead to the partitioning of Lebanon, God forbid. The partitioning of Lebanon would have serious impact on the entire region and would achieve one of Israel's aims: to divide the neighboring Arab countries into small statelets as part of the scheme to balkanize the Middle East region. We must all contribute toward restoring normalcy to Lebanon as a free, independent, and unified country. We, in Jordan, believe the Syrian Army's entry into West Beirut came as a result of the regrettable, bloody battles that recently took place there and at the request of, and in response to, the desire of all the warring factions.

The situation in Lebanon requires an external force to restore security and end the fighting as a prelude to the achievement of a new formula for coexistence among all of Lebanon's warring factions. This formula was the topic of discussion between His Majesty King Husayn and President Amin al-Jumayyil and also between His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad. It is believed a meeting between Presidents al-Asad and al-Jumayyil will take place soon to discuss the new formula that would restore Lebanon's prosperity, life, security, and stability. As far as the subject of sending Jordanian troops or observers to Lebanon is concerned, this is out of the question. Such reports are untrue and this issue has never been discussed at any level. There is absolutely no truth in such reports.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] The Islamic summit resolutions stressed the need to end the Iraq-Iran war. In his speech before the summit, His Majesty King Husayn said important and impressive things about this war. However, despite all this, the bloody escalation of this war is continuing. What is the Jordanian view to end this destructive war?

[Al-Rifa'i] Regrettably, it seems the only way to end this war is to convince the Tehran rulers they cannot achieve victory and will not be able to achieve their objectives. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has stated on several occasions he supports an end to the war. He proposed a peace plan based on an immediate cease-fire, initiating negotiations to settle any border disputes, noninterference in internal affairs, and the return of both Iraq and Iran to life as Muslim neighbors in the same region. Regrettably, the Tehran rulers reject every peace initiative and continue with the war and destruction. As long as they see a possibility of achieving any victory on any occasion in a small area in the front they will continue this war. Thus, His Majesty King Husayn believes all Arab, Islamic, and international efforts should join in trying to convince Iran its stand on the war will not achieve any results but will merely lead to destruction and ruination. If this endeavor does not succeed there would be collective measures to prevent Iran from continuing to launch its aggression against Iraq.

The issue is very complicated. There are many states that deal with Iran and supply it with arms. Some of them seek financial benefits and some have aggressive intentions against the Arab nation. Others are trying to placate Iran for certain purposes.

In this context, one has to mention the U.S. stand revealed recently in terms of supplying Iran with arms, surface-to-air missiles, and anti-armor missiles.

The aim behind supplying Iran with such weapons was to counter Iraqi superiority in the field of planes and armor. If the stand of

these states continue, there will be no hope of ending the war in the near future. The Arab and Islamic stands will have a great effect in changing the stands of certain states that support Iran and oppose the Arab nation. I say the Arab nation because the war, in fact, is not an Iraq-Iran war but an aggression against the entire Arab nation. Iraq does not defend only itself and its territory but is also defending the entire Arab existence in the east.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] His Majesty King Husayn has declined an invitation to visit the United States because it has lost its credibility. The U.S. Congress opposed supplying arms to Jordan. Do you not consider the recent U.S. stance toward the international conference — a flexibility shown during the Israeli prime minister's visit — a positive development, and do you believe the United States new position is sincere or is it a means to divert attention from the Irangate scandal?

[Al-Rifa'i] The United States lost a great deal in the Arab region as a result of the scandal of selling arms to Iran. Of course the United States is trying to regain some of its lost credibility and its position, especially following the violent reactions it received from the states that deal with and have good ties with the United States.

His Majesty King Husayn received an invitation to visit Washington at a time suggested by the U.S. Administration. However, his majesty declined to accept the invitation at the fixed date and asked the United States to take a series of measures to impart goodwill and seriousness to the new declared attitudes in terms of refraining from supplying weapons to Iran on the one hand, and supporting the Arabs' position on the international conference on the other.

There is a long list of measures, stands, and requirements on whose basis we can think of resuming contacts with the United States at the highest level.

There is some progress in the recent U.S. stand on the international conference but we cannot judge the seriousness of this stand at present. We must await the other measures Washington is required to take and see if the U.S. Administration is truly serious in the desire to rectify its errors and change its stands, so it can deal with the Arab region by taking the Arab interests and not those of Israel and Iran into consideration.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] What about Jordan's request for U.S. arms for the Jordanian Armed Forces?

[Al-Rifa'i] We do not discuss the subject of arms with the United States. When Congress opposed the arms supply, His Majesty King Husayn decided we should not ask for new arms deals from the United States. Therefore, we began diversifying our arms supplies and began to deal with Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Therefore, we have not submitted new requests for U.S. arms at present.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Mr Prime Minister, following His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Kuwait and the meeting of the Joint Steadfastness Committee, it seems there are signs of a near resumption of coordination between Jordan and the PLO leadership. Is there anything new in this regard, and will the march of the joint move resume soon?

[Al-Rifa'i] Our position on the PLO leadership is known and we have reiterated it on numerous occasions. There were differences between us and the PLO leadership that led to the suspension of political coordination. When we speak about political coordination we meant joint moves. The coordination was suspended when the PLO retreated from its commitments and from the principles of the joint move. The decision came from the PLO itself and not from Jordan. We had an agreement with the PLO on the principles and nature of the joint move and on what was required. We began our move on this basis, and His Majesty King Husayn managed to achieve for the PLO what Brother Yasir 'Arafat himself described as a miracle and phenomenal effort. Here, we mean His Majesty King Husayn's success in extricating the U.S. agreement to PLO participation in an international conference on equal footing with the other sides on the basis of its acceptance of Resolution 242, which did not cause any problem for the PLO when we were coordinating with it. We were in constant contact regarding what was required because it would be unreasonable for any side to participate in an international conference if it rejected the basis for convening it.

The PLO leadership's position, which rejected Resolution 242 and which reached us at the last moment despite all the constant statements indicating agreement, led to the suspension of coordination. The suspension of coordination has nothing to do with the PLO, with which we deal as a legitimate establishment representing the Palestinian people. We still recognize the PLO and deal with it on this basis. Joint political action is what has been suspended. His Majesty King Husayn announced on several occasions that if we were to resume coordination once again, we should begin where we stopped and not start from the beginning. When the PLO is ready to resume coordination from the point at which we stopped and on the basis of what is rational and logical to enable it to play its role — that is, our participation in an international conference — we would be more than willing to resume coordination and start again.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] What about the meeting of the joint committee to bolster steadfastness in the occupied homeland? Is this not the beginning of a return to coordination?

[Al-Rifa'i] The work of the joint committee actually stopped before the suspension of coordination with the PLO leadership and was not a result of the suspension of coordination. The reason was that there were no funds or allocations for bolstering the steadfastness in the occupied territories. The moment the installment from fraternal Saudi Arabia reached the joint fund, we called the committee to meet. The meeting was held in Amman, and it was decided to spend the money on bolstering steadfastness and on ways it could be spend. Thus, the meeting of the steadfastness committee has nothing to do with the suspension of coordination. As I have said, its work is part of the joint action and our every day dealing with the PLO.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Is Jordan determined to go along in implementing the development plan for the occupied territory, and will the PLO participate in it? Is it true there are a number of European and Arab reservations toward this plan?

[Al-Rifa'i] Much has been said about the occupied territory development plan. This program is not a new one. Since Israel occupied the Arab territories in 1967, Jordan has been supporting our people there and has been paying salaries for employees there for the past 20 years. We have been extending assistance to the muncipalities and cooperative societies and offering whatever we could to help our people there.

The joint steadfastness committee has been helping in this regard. In itself, the development program is not of Jordanian making only. It is a combination of all the projects and requests sent to us by our people there. These requests were sent to the joint committee at a certain stage and to the Jordanian Government at a later stage. The PLO was in perfect agreement on the development plan and had no reservations about it. As I said, the main aim was to support people's steadfastness in the occupied territory.

We consider the basis of our legitimate rights is for the Palestinian people to remain on Palestinian land. These rights will be undermined if Israel were able to realize its aims of forcing our people to emigrate and to be uprooted from their land. Therefore, Israel is making their daily life very difficult, and their conditions under occupation are now unbearable. Israel has not built a single school in the past 20 years of occupation. On the contrary, Israel closed many schools and hospitals. It has not started any project or established infrastructures. It does not open roads or help create job opportunities.

Therefore, we, in Jordan, felt that if the situation continued as it has without any assistance and support from Jordan, we would have indirectly contributed toward forcing the people to emigrate and realizing Israeli aims.

Therefore, the development plan has no Jordanian political dimension. We are not discussing competition with the PLO or the hegemony of the Jordanian East Bank over the West Bank. These issues have no place in our plan. What is at issue is supporting our people. This is supported by Arab summits.

In the recent meeting of the Arab economy ministers, this issue was discussed and it was agreed that it is part of the overall Arab strategy. It is part of Jordan's duties and Jordan is continuing to do it.

As for the reservations about the plan from Arab, European, or friendly states, these reservations do not exist. Everyone is supporting the plan. You must have noticed in the EC statement on the Middle East that there is a clear reference to the need to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation to enable them to remain on their land and to ensure a decent standard of living for them.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Mr Prime Minister, there have been many reports of, and information about, official contacts between Jordan and Israel. What is the Jordanian prime minister's reply to this information, especially because the topics mentioned are the development plan and a peaceful settlement?

[Al-Rifa'i] This news is not new. Israel is constantly trying to harm Jordan by disseminating such news and fabricating lies to achieve its objectives. There are no contacts between the Jordanian Government and Israel and no meetings have taken place at official, senior, or other levels. However, we must not forget that the West Bank and its inhabitants are under occupation and have direct contacts with the East Bank. For example, the West Bank members of parliament live there and are occasionally summoned to meet Israeli ministers and military governors and cannot but respond since they live under occupation. After such meetings, they come to attend the Jordanian parliament sessions. This also applies to some Senate members and the West Bank mayors who come here to obtain aid or support. This also applies to thousands of employees in the West Bank who are Jordanian employees but work under occupation. They come here to contact their ministries or visit their families. Because the bridges are open and the policy of these open bridges was approved by all the Arab countries and the PLO, and because this policy was a major factor in the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the West Bank to enable them to contact their relatives abroad and Arab governments, we can say these contacts exist. However, it is absolutely untrue to say there are official Jordanian-Israeli contacts or that they can be described as political contacts or coordination. As I have said, this is part of the Israeli campaign aimed at casting doubt on Jordan's stands to serve Israel's objectives.

[Al-Sharq Al-Awsat] Following the approval of the general elections law in Jordan, there has been increasing talk of early parliamentary elections. Will these elections include the West Bank?

[Al-Rifa'i] According to the Constitution, the term of the Jordanian House of Representatives runs for 4 years. The current term expires in January 1988. If it is decided to hold the elections, they must be held at the end of this year. However, the Jordanian Constitution gives his majesty the right to renew the term of the House of Representatives for an additional 1 or 2 years. No decision has been made on this so far, and it is premature to hold elections or renew the current term. As far as the West Bank is concerned, the subject of parliamentary elections is out of the question because no elections can be held under occupation. The Jordanian Constitution tackled this issue and gave the House of Representatives the right to elect West Bank representatives from the sons of the West Bank. Thus, if parliamentary elections are to be held, they would be held only in the East Bank. The East Bank representatives would elect half the representatives for the West Bank in accordance with the Constitution, and three quarters of the House would elect the last quarter from the sons of the West Bank. Once again, the issue of holding elections in the West Bank is out of the question and the issue of elections has not yet been decided. The parliament's term ends at the beginning of next year, and the elections must be held before then. However, his majesty has the right to extend the current term.

[*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*] Reports say that Jordan is facing a sharp economic crisis. How true is this? What measures is your government taking to confornt this crisis, especially because Jordan is aspiring to cross the poverty line to reach the line of confrontation on all levels?

[Al-Rifa'i] The economic situation in Jordan is affected by the economic conditions in the region to a great extent. What was

termed the economic recession in Jordan was part of the economic recession in the region as a whole in the wake of the drop in oil prices. My government has taken a series of measures to overcome the recession and to improve the economic situation. The results have started to appear. I can say that the economic situation is now good and has started to improve.

We may say that we have started a new phase. It may not be the same as the phase of the economic boom and prosperity that prevailed in the recent past. But the current phase is remedial. It is the phase of adapting to the new economic conditions in Jordan and in the region as a whole.

In fact, our problem is rather a financial and not an economic one. I mean that the Treasury is suffering a shortage in liquidity as a result of the failure of some Arab brothers to meet their financial commitments to Jordan. This forced us, for instance, to provide the installments and interests on the arms deals which were reached with some states when we were relying on these Arab financial commitments. Again I say that our problem is a financial rather than an economic one. It is a problem of liquidity.

[*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*] What is the latest about the oil exploration program? In 1985, it was announced that oil was being produced in the Hamzah oil field in eastern Jordan. Is the quantity of this oil commercial?

[Al-Rifa'i] The oil exploration program is continuing. In addition to our efforts in this regard, we signed contracts with international companies which will begin their exploration after a year, when the studies on oil will be completed. The national program of oil exploration is continuing. We have not obtained great quantities of oil yet. In fact, we have some oil wells, but they produce in small quantities. However, we hope that with the assistance of these international companies, our exploratory work will cover all parts of the country in terms of exploration, seismic survey, and experimental wells.

[*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*] Many observers note that the Jordanian Government resorts occasionally and within short periods of time to creating comprehensive changes in the diplomatic, ministerial, and administrative fields. Is there a certain philosophy behind such moves?

[Al-Rifa'i] Continuous diplomatic and administrative changes in the government is a healthy phenomenon. God be praised, we enjoy a continuity that is guaranteed by his majesty with the aim of ensuring stability in the country. People are given a certain responsibility and responsibilities are exchanged from time to time with others in both the public and private sectors, making their contributions to serving the march of the country, each from his own position.

The issue is not that of a certain philosophy of government. These changes are natural and part of the process of exchanging posts. It is a healthy phenomenon, as I said, whose aim is to serve the nation, and the march of the country.

[*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*] Since you took over the government 2 years ago, there have been rumors about changes and reshuffles. The talk about a government reshuffle is now a favorite subject in Jordanian society. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Rifa'i] The term of a government is not subject to rumors. The government will resign when the king notes that it has carried out its duties and the country needs a new government to deal with new developments. Of course the government will resign if it losses the confidence of parliament.

My government does not pay attention to rumors and will continue to carry out its duties until the last moment of its mandate regardless of the length of this mandate. As for the rumors about a government change or the like, it is part of our life. It may be a healthy phenomenon because Jordanian society is an open one, allowing various opinions, hopes, and wishes. The talk about who supports who and who is against whom is allowed. This is an expression of the continuous dialogue within the framework of the one Jordanian family with the aim of serving the throne and the nation as best we can.

King Husayn Visits Austrian, FRG Presidents

For reportage on the 4 March meeting in Vienna between King Husayn and President Kurt Waldheim, including a report on Waldheim being invited to visit Jordan, see the Austria section of the 5 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

For reportage on the 5 March meetings in Bonn between King Husayn and President Richard von Weizsaecker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, see the FRGsection of the 6 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

Labor Minister Leaves for Baghdad Labor Meeting

JN052108 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 87

PSA [Text] Amman — Engineer Khalid al-Haj Hasan left Amman for Baghdad this evening at the head of a Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the 15th session of the Arab Labor conference which will begin there the day after tomorrow, Saturday.

The minister will deliver a speech before the participants in the conference on Jordan's stand on several important issues, which will be raised at the conference. Among these issues are the occupation authorities' practices and violations against workers and employers in the occupied territories, the Iraq-Iran war, a report by the director general of the Arab labor office on the relationship between technology, development and employment, and the Arab labor organization's effective role in tackling the affairs of the expatriate Arab laborers.

Amman Radio Carries West Bank Program 3 March

JN031838 [Editorial Report]

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1212 GMT on 3 March carries a new 18-minute episode of the weekly program "The

Occupied Homeland; News and Views." This week's episode begins with a 5-minute statement by Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territory affairs, following his meeting with the rapporteurs of the development committees and the finance directors of the development zones in the West Bank yesterday during which he explained to them the procedures for implementing projects in the West Bank in accordance with the regulations that were issued for the implementation of the program for the development of the occupied territories. In his statement Dudin says: "With respect to the development program for the occupied territory, the people will notice we have spoken about it too much. However, we hope the brother citizens will understand our concern. Over the past 19 years, we have been dealing with the West Bank only by supporting salaries and providing other types of assistance which do not need the kind of supervision and control that is required now. In the absence of the Jordanian national authority in the West Bank and the existence of occupation in it and in the Gaza Strip, new relations have emerged dictating that we take into consideration that this long absence from our country makes us dutybound to establish a new semi-official institution with which we will deal and which will assume the responsibility of spending the funds we allocate for projects there."

Dudin adds that the development committees will assume this role, that they will "discuss the people's demands and ascertain they are needed," and that "these" committees will submit these demands to us here in Amman and we will do what is needed to implement them. He notes: "All this supervision seeks to reassure the people that what is being spent in the West Bank is being spent on vital projects, on projects which bolster their steadfastness, and on projects which are known and clear to all the people who can give their opinion on these projects." Speaking about the geographic distribution of the development projects, Dudin says: "We have taken the question of geographic distribution into consideration because it is not permissible to spend funds in the eight regions without taking the factor of equitable distribution into consideration. I would like to add that we will soon submit a resolution to the prime minister who will approve it with respect to releasing the 1.5 million dinars that were allocated as urgent expenditures for the Gaza Strip. We hope that early next week, in cooperation with the voluntary committee for the sons of Gaza and the Cairo-Amman Bank in Nabulus, we will be able to carry out our duty toward the projects that are on their way to being finalized with respect to the Gaza Strip."

This is followed by a 4-minute interview with Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf who discusses development projects in the Jericho Municipality, particularly in the agricultural sphere. He says: "I come to Amman occasionally to follow up the implementation of the development projects in the municipality following the Jordanian Government's adoption of the 5-year development plan. We thank His Majesty King Husayn, may God grant him a long life, and all the men and the experts who carried out studies on these projects. We would like to stress that there is no difference between the East and West Bank. We view development as being for the one country." He concludes by saying that the education cadres in Jericho have asked him to thank His Majesty King Husayn for supporting the salaries of West Bank education cadres and expressed hope that such support will extend to other government employees in the West Bank.

Next is a 3-minute report on a decision by Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Humud allowing the produce to be brought into Jordan from the West Bank. The main points of the decision are:

"1. Sixteen thousand tons of tomatoes from a cultivated area of 9,255 dunums in the Jordan valley west of the river from 20 February until 30 April 1987 as follows: a) 4,000 tons until the end of February; b) 7,000 tons in March; and c) 5,000 tons in April;

"2. Eighteen hundred tons of eggplant from a cultivated area of 2,738 dunums in the Jordan valley west of the river from 20 February until 30 April;

"3. Fifty percent of the produce of almond nuts from the Tulkarm area as of 1 March 1987 on the condition the quantity does not exceed 150 kg per dunum;

"4. Five truckloads of cactus fruit saplings to be planted in Sahl al-Sayfi nursery."

The radio then carries a 2-minute interview with Dr Hasan Khurays, president of the Jordanian Doctors Association, who says the fifth Jordanian medical conference, which will begin in Amman on 4 March, will discuss papers submitted by specialized committees on health services in the occupied territory and how to improve them.

The program concludes with a statement by Eng Ibrahim Aby 'Ayyash, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, who denies reports by one of the newspapers in the occupied territory that the "activities of the branch committee of the Jordanian Engineers Association in the West Bank have been frozen". Aby 'Ayyash says: "These reports are groundless. There is a minor problem with one or two of the members of the committee and the committee's office staff has been charged with running the committee's affairs until the problem with the two members is solved. There has been no decision to suspend the branch committee which is carrying out its duties in accordance with the law."

Jordan Obtains $150 Million Syndicated Bank Loan

JN050846 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 87 p 1

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman — The government will sign a seven-year, $150 million syndicated loan agreement on Saturday with the Arab Bank along with 19 other participating international banks, a spokesman for the Arab Bank said Wednesday. The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group of London will act as the currency agent for the dual currency loan, he said.

The loan's interest rate payable to the banks is based on Libor (London inter-bank offered rate), plus 5/8 of one per cent for the first 3 1/2 years and 3/4 of one per cent thereafter. The banks offered the government a 3 1/2-year grace period from the date of signing the agreement.

Arranged by the Arab Bank, the loan is meant to be used for financing development projects in the Kingdom as part of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan. The loan is payable in U.S. dollars with the Deutschmark as an alternate currency

Compared to the government's previous borrowing of $250 million in July 1985, the new loan is costing the Kingdom less in terms of interest, according to Dr. Makram Rahhal, executive vice-president of the Arab Bank, Bahrain. The previous eight-year loan was at 1/2 per cent over Libor for the first four years, and 5/8 per cent thereafter.

Economists believe the loan was sought to cover the deficit in government funds for the development plan caused by the shortage in Arab aid. Last year, Jordan received less than half of the funds budgeted in accordance with the 1978 Arab summit resolutions. Only Saudi Arabia fully honoured its financial commitment to the Kingdom.

The loan terms are seen by bankers as generous, reflecting Jordan's credit-worthiness and its good standing in the international banking world.

The loan's lead managers are the Arab Bank, the Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, the Al UBAF Banking Group: the Arab banking Corporation; the Burgan Bank S.a.k.; the Gulf International Bank B.s.c.; Manufacturers Hanover Limited and Standard Chartered Bank. Co-lending are Credit Lyonnais; Banque Nationale de Paris: Banque Indosuez/Al bank Al saudi al Fransi, and Grindalys International Bank. Managers are the Saudi International Bank: Co-managers are the Arab Jordan investment Bank: the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Societe Generale. Participants are Credit Industriel et Commercial de Paris; Banque de L'union Europeene; Banque International pour L'afrique Occidentale, and the Kuwaiti-French Bank.

Hashim Statement on Recent Rift Within Amal

NC051249 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Hasan Hashim, former Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman, issued a statement today in which he explained the incidents that took place between his supporters and other Amal personnel in the south last Sunday. He denied accusations that foreign incitement had prompted the actions which he and his supporters had undertaken. He said such accusations are only an attempt to throw sand in people's eyes and divert attention from the true causes for these incidents.

Referring to the prevailing situation in the south, Hashim asserted that it is the result of a deterioration in security and the presence of officials who maintain an important stand with regard to assassinations and attacks against honest members and cadres of the Amal Movement. It is the result of thefts and looting in all villages, as well as explosions and operations which Amal leaders target against one another. In this respect, he referred to the attempts made to storm certain villages and the loopholes that emerged during the incidents involving the camps, particularly the multiple positions and views on this issue that created confusion within the Amal Movement.

Hashim affirmed: We will not answer the accusations leveled against us. We only want to address ourselves to the sons of the south. He added: You were the target of attacks. It was your sons who were hunted down, pursued, arrested, displaced, or martyred at the hands of the champions who turned over Maghdushah and its neighborhoods. It was your shops that were robbed and your establishments that were blown up. Only you can point your fingers at those who have stolen electric generators and cars and those who have required protection money.

In his statement, Hashim asserted that concern about the Amal Movement and singing praise for its abidance by its charter run counter to the fact that its genuine decisionmaking is being confiscated, reducing it to a commodity for sale here and there. In conclusion, he stated: By accepting the mediation efforts of the venerable ulemas and out of our desire to maintain unity of ranks and refrain from bloodshed, we have called on all brother strugglers to return to their centers and wait for the result of current endeavors. We hope these efforts will lead to a unified stand that will safeguard the south and its population, as well as the Amal Movement's decisionmaking.

Hashim, Others Expelled

NC061132 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] The Amal Movement's central organizational bureau today decided to expel the following from the movement: Hasan Hashim, Ahmad 'Unayfi, Ahmad Bannut, 'Abbas Haydar, and 'Abd al-Karim 'Ammar. The bureau considers the Amal Movement's command in the south as resigned.

Islamic Scouts Urge 'Peaceful Uprising' in Amal

NC051829 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A statement has been distributed in Ba'labakk, Al-Biqa', in the name of the new Al-Biqa' Commission of Scouts of the Islamic Message. The statement says: The events that took place in the south signify the start of corrective action in the Amal Movement. We hope this corrective initiative will succeed. The statement called on all honest and faithful people in the Amal Movement and in the Scouts of the Islamic Message to stage a peaceful uprising against 'Aql Hamiyah [official in charge of Amal's military department], saying the scouts commission does not consider he has provided good leadership.

Fadlallah Rejects Pretext for Syrian Entry

NC051747 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today rejected the pretext under which the Syrian occupation army entered West Beirut, saying the Syrian entry was not prompted by the clashes there. In a statement to the [Beirut-based French periodical] *Magazine*, to be published tomorrow, Fadlallah said: If we realize that Beirut has become a threat to certain lines in the region which cannot be crossed and to the interests of the policies of the United States nd others, we can understand why the Syrians succeeded in deploying normally, with no problems.

Fadlallah stressed that the current stage involves an attempt to halt a plague and provide palliatives, particularly because Lebanon and West Beirut recently became an explosive problem threatening several regional interests. He said the Palestinian camps will remain a time bomb that could explode at any moment and stressed that a solution in Lebanon has been forbidden.

Negotiating Team Members Leave for Damascus

NC050942 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Former Minister Elie Salim and Colonel Simon Qassis, members of the Lebanese negotiating team, left for Damascus this morning. Presidential envoy Hani Salam will join the team in Damascus to resume Lebanese-Syrian discussions in light of the results achieved during the seventh round of talks.

Sham'un on Ties With Syria, Christian Conference

NC051334 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Following a meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, former President Camille Sham'un said relations between Lebanon and Syria are currently being studied in a realistic manner. Both countries' sovereignty and independence must be preserved. Factors of proximity, as well as historical and geographic ties, make it necessary for the two countries to have constructive relations.

Responding to a question, Sham'un asserted there is no five-party agreement [the agreement reported to have been reached in Damascus by Karami, Al-Husayni, Al-Huss, Birri, and Junblatt]. However, there is a working paper that has been prepared by the president which is now under discussion.

Former President Sham'un said there is no need to convene a Christian or an Islamic conference in Damascus. He stated that the country is on the threshold of a solution. Everything will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, he added, especially if it pertains to legal matters.

Responding to a question about expanding or changing the government, former President Sham'un noted: There is nothing urgent in this regard.

Chamber Speaker al-Husayni then received Judge Joseph Juraysati, director general of the Presidential Office.

PSP Reportedly Impeding 12th Brigade Deployment

NC052028 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] According to security reports, the Syrian plan for deploying units of the dissident 12th Brigade along the Coastal Road is encountering obstacles and problems. The PSP has refused to allow units of the brigade to deploy at some strategic points. Two planned deployment points have actually been cancelled at Khaldah and Jisr al-Damur. The reports state that the toll roadblock at Jisr al-Awwali, which is manned by Nasirite Popular Organization personnel, has been moved to Al-Bramiyah junction on the Sidon Road. The PSP is still maintaining its toll roadblock in Al-Rumaylah.

Israel Releases 21 Detainees From Al-Khiyam

NC052132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Israel released 21 detainees from Al-Khiyam Prison today. Red Cross vehicles transported 11 of these individuals to Tyre, while the remaining 10 left for their villages in the security strip.

Joint Lebanese Talks Resume in Damascus
JN051839 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Official Syrian-Lebanese talks were resumed in Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's office a short while ago. This is the second session of talks held within the eighth round of talks between the two sides following a 3-week suspension during which many positive political and security developments took place.

The eighth round of talks began this morning when a working session of more than 3 hours was held in Minister al-Shar's office. Participating in the talks in addition to the Syrian foreign minister were Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and surveillance of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, and the following members of the Lebanese presidential delegation: Elie Salim, [Lebanese president's] political adviser; Colonel Simon Qassis, Army intelligence chief; and Nicola Nasr, a secretary. Presidential envoy Eng Hani Salam arrived in the Syrian capital yesterday evening after briefing President Amin al-Jumayyil on the results of his previous talks in Damascus, particularly the joint concept reached with the leaders of the other party.

I have learned from the Lebanese delegation's circles that the current talks are being held in an extremely positive atmosphere and that during the morning session the Lebanese side presented President al-Jumayyil's ideas, suggestions, and replies to the formula proposed by the other party. Syria is working as an arbiter and is trying to unify the two sides' stands and ideas for the sake of realizing a true inter-Lebanese reconciliation that would remove political differences to be declared when the anticipated Syrian-Lebanese summit is held in Damascus. I have learned this summit will not be held before a plan for a political solution is reached and that efforts and talks are continuing in an accelerated manner to reach this aspired solution.

The Lebanese delegation will stay in Damascus tonight and there may be a third session tomorrow before the delegation returns to Beirut to present a report to President Amin al-Jumayyil. The situation is that agreement has been reached on many points and stands are close, but not final, on other points. A few points are also still pending agreement.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Official
JN051814 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Shi'ite Islamic Council in Lebanon, at 1830 today. The talks dealt with the current situation and developments in Lebanon in light of the assistance provided by Syria to entrench security and peace in West Beirut, and also with the efforts exerted to initiate a Lebanese national dialogue.

8 Mar Revolution Hailed; Talas on Beirut Plan
JN051743 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The People's Assembly hailed the 24th anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution launched by our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and which constituted a decisive turning point in the march of the Arab struggle. The revolution disturbed the existing balance of power in the Arab region in favor of the Arab liberation movement by toppling the reactionary regime, which brought about and advocated the breakup of unity with Egypt and also by working toward strengthening unionist and socialist trends in the psyche of the Arab masses. This revolution gave rise to hopes that the Arab masses' objectives of achieving unity, freedom, and socialism are achievable. This came in the session held by the People's Assembly this morning chaired by Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and in the presence of General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, and a number of ministers.

Some Assembly members addressed the session on this great occasion. They proudly enumerated the great accomplishments achieved in all fields thanks to the revolution's efforts. The members said these accomplishments were enhanced, developed, and bolstered by the glorious corrective movement under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The Assembly members referred to the eternal pan-Arab stands, which were a source of pride for our people and nation in both the Arab and international arenas, thanks to the Syrian Arab Republic's great roles in the areas of construction, liberation, and the services offered to promote pan-Arab and humanitarian causes. All of these accomplishments, the members added, are attributed to the wise and courageous leadership of leader Al-Asad, which marked a distinguished era in the history of the Arab liberation struggle.

The Assembly members paid tribute to the pan-Arab, historic stand behind President Al-Asad's positive response to the appeals of the brothers in Lebanon who sought the help of forces from our brave Army. These forces, the members said, are messengers of love, well- being, and assistance who will act as a force that prevents the infighting of warring factions, which only serves their enemies as well as the enemies of the Arab nation.

In their speeches, the members pledged allegiance and loyalty to the Ba'th party, the leader, and the people, emphasizing they will keep the pledge in the march for struggle, construction, and liberation until our objectives are fulfilled and until the society of progress and socialism is established. They also hailed the free strugglers and our courageous Armed Forces, which have been holding out in the face of challenges. They also expressed reverence for the souls of the righteous martyrs.

The People's Assembly discussed some of the reports submitted by its committees. These reports were approved as a result of the discussions. Some members raised questions about several issues. These questions were answered by Gen Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense.

On the Syrian forces' entry into the western sector of Beirut, Gen Talas said this entry was a result of the infighting that erupted among the brother Lebanese and of the appeals made by many senior Lebanese officials who came to Damascus asking it to end the infighting by suspect external interventions. Hence, leader Hafiz al-Asad displayed a noble Arab stand by responding to the requests of the fraternal Lebanese — officials and citizens. Consequently, Gen Talas said, our Arab forces, eager to help without showing any signs of reluctance or hesitation and with momentum, entered Beirut to respond to the appeals that stemmed from fraternal, pan-Arab sentiments to help end the bloodshed among brothers and to expose the parties that have wagered on the continuation of chaos and conflict among the Lebanese. They have had their full share of patience with the tragedies and calamities that have befallen them, which failed to bring about the positive response of any party other than that of fraternal Syria and the great leader Hafiz al-Asad.

Gen Talas added: This pan-Arab, nationalist stand by leader Al-Asad was well received by all the sons of our people in Lebanon and throughout the Arab world. He continued: Our forces' entry [into Beirut] will bolster the nationalist, pan-Arab stands as well as the security situation in fraternal Lebanon.

Earlier, the Assembly listened to questions raised by several Assembly members and referred them to the competent authorities through Prime Ministry channels.

Al-Shar' Receives DPRK Trade Minister

JN051210 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0915 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received DPRK Foreign Trade Minister Choe Chong-kun and the delegation accompanying him this morning. The meeting was attended by Diya'allah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Shahir Duray'i, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Department; and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and other issues of mutual concern.

Al-Shar' Receives Kuwait, Algerian Ambassadors

JN052101 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Kuwait Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim this evening. He received a written message from him addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of fraternal Kuwait.

The minister received Algerian Ambassador Moubarek Djedri and a message from Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, foreign minister of fraternal Algeria, on the results of the OAU ministerial meeting held in Addis Ababa recently.

Economic, Scientific Protocol Signed With USSR

JN052133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow — A protocol for economic and scientific cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union in the field of oil and mineral wealth was signed in the Soviet capital today. The two [as heard] protocols stipulate the consolidation of bilateral relations, especially in the oil industry field and requirements for oil exploration in Syria to enhance production and investment, and the promotion of phosphate exploration, investment, and production.

Correction on Yasin Meeting With PRAVDA Editor

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "PRAVDA Editor Meets Economic Affairs Official" published in the 5 March Middle East & Africa *Daily Report*, page H 2, only paragraph, line six:

...of the sixth 5-year plan, which... (changing number "4" to "5")

President Herzog's Visit To FRG Set for April

TA061016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] President Hayim Herzog will make his official visit to the FRG in a month. The 4-day visit is the first official visit to that country by an Israeli president, and its main feature will be a memorial ceremony at the Bergen-Belsen camp site. The visit will be held at the invitation of FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker. In the course of the visit, Mr Herzog will also meet with Chancellor Kohl and other personalities.

Prior to the FRG, President Herzog will visit Switzerland as the guest of President Pierre Aubert. President and Mrs Herzog will also be the guests of the Basel townspeople on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the first Zionist congress.

The announcement on the president's visit is being issued now simultaneously in Jerusalem, Bern, and Bonn.

Continuing Reportage on Pollard Espionage Case

Peres: 'Erosion' in U.S. Ties

TA051635 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The Israeli Government stated it had no knowledge of the Pollards' activity. This was said by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in response to a question on whether Israel has any obligation to the couple. Peres also said that if it is true that the U.S. secretary of defense said a strong Israel does not advance peace, then this is a mistake. The foreign minister spoke with correspondents in Tel Aviv before meeting with Labor Party mayors of development towns. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel was present:

[Begin recording] [Deqel] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres did not address himself directly to the question of whether Israel has any obligation to the Pollards, who were convicted of spying for Israel. In his reply, the foreign minister reiterated Israel's official position.

[Peres] The Israeli Government announced that the entire affair took place without its knowledge. That is all I can tell you.

[Deqel] The foreign minister also refused to answer a question on whether there was ministerial responsibility for this affair. Peres said we should now concentrate on the relationship between Israel and the United States. Only after our efforts are concluded will there be any point in examining whether there is a need to draw additional lessons in Israel.

[Peres] We formally announced that the government was not involved, that conclusions were drawn concerning those who were involved, and that the unit involved was dispersed. This is what should have been and has been done at this stage.

[Deqel] According to Peres, there has been some erosion in Israel-U.S. relations, and efforts should be made to improve them.

[Peres] There is no doubt this affair created a problem in our relationship, even though involuntarily and inadvertantly. Now a supreme effort must be made to overcome this problem. There is no point in adding fuel to the fire. I would say there has been a serious degree of erosion, although I would add that our foundation is very strong. This is not the type of erosion that can cause the foundation itself to collapse.

[Deqel] As for the document U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger submitted to a Washington court claiming that an Israel that is too strong cannot advance peace, the foreign minister had this to say:

[Peres] We must exercise caution here. We did not see the statement; we saw what was leaked, and we are accustomed to the fact that what is leaked is not always the same as what was actually said. However, if it is true that Mr Weinberger said a strong Israel cannot advance peace, then I think this is a mistake. The contrary is true: A strong Israel can participate in and even lead the peace process. Anyone who supports the peace process and its continuation must be interested in seeing that Israel continues to be a strong country.

[Deqel] At this stage the Foreign Ministry is not considering launching a public relations campaign in the United States because, according to the foreign minister, such a campaign could miss the target in view of the fact that Israel was not put on trial but rather one man. Israel regards the affair as an isolated, passing case belonging to the past, according to Shim'on Peres. [end recording]

Weinberger Denies Remarks

TA052009 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Israel will now make every possible effort to restore relations of trust with the United States, officials in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem stated today. On Monday the prime minister will appear before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which will devote its session to the Pollard affair. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio on the initial reactions in Jerusalem to the sentence given Pollard:

Israel is today licking what the defense minister termed an open wound in its relations with the United States in the wake of the Pollard affair. The only ray of light is the cable received in Jerusalem today from the Israeli ambassador to the United States, in which he reports about a telephone conversation he held with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger at the request of the Prime Minister's Office. Me'ir Rosenne reports that in the conversation, the secretary of defense denied the remarks attributed to him to the effect that a strong Israel poses a threat to peace in the Middle East. Weinberger emphatically denounced the Pollard affair but said he had not attacked Israel in the affidavit to the court that sentenced Pollard to life imprisonment. I am in favor of maintaining Israel's qualitative edge, the U.S. secretary of defense told the Israeli ambassador.

However, despite the clarification of this issue — a clarification that brought relief to a worried Jerusalem — the Pollard affair aroused great anger and pain in the Prime Minister's Office today because this is an affair that should not have taken place, Shamir's aides said, adding that this is what happens when makeshift operations are taken up without the government's approval.

The approval to assign Colonel Avi'em Sela' to a senior job precisely at this time was described today by officials in the Prime Minister's Office as foolish. The officials added the only thing that remains to be done now is to express our regret and to emphasize to the United States that we have cooperated with it in an unprecedented fashion since the affair broke out and have allowed the Americans to interrogate the Israelis involved in the espionage case to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the political level did not approve the operation.

Now, officials in Jerusalem say, every possible effort must be made to improve relations with the United States and to restore trust between the two countries, a trust that was not only affected by the unfortunate Pollard affair but also by the Iran scandal.

Ministers said this evening they would ask for clarifications on the affair and those responsible for it both in the cabinet plenum and in the Inner Cabinet. One of the ministers, who is a member of the Inner Cabinet, told us this evening he would demand the establishment of a commission of inquiry because the harm done to U.S.-Israeli relations and to the U.S. Jewish community is unprecedented and those responsible for it must be punished.

MA'ARIV on Weinberger Strategy

TA051814 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Mar 87 p 10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Weinberger Wants To Control Us"]

[Text] There is no denying the unprecedented gravity of the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in an affidavit he submitted to the Washington federal court dealing with the Jonathan Pollard case, which has been disclosed by the U.S. press. "An Israeli military advantage," Weinberger wrote, "undermines the balance of power in the Middle East and consequently increases the chances of a military flare-up."

However soothing an interpretation these remarks are given, it cannot take the sting out of the fact that such a high-level figure as the U.S. secretary of defense has stated that Israel's might, if it becomes too strong, **increases the threat of war!**

If Israel's military advantage poses a constant threat to its neighbors, what is left for an "endangered" country such as Syria — just to cite one example — to do other than resort to legitimate "self-defense?"

This dangerous thesis of the U.S. secretary of defense entails another serious aspect: It justifies Syria's — and not only Syria's — endeavor to attain "strategic parity" with Israel, which given the ongoing circumstances in the region means only one thing: a frantic arms race.

Nevertheless, it seems Israel would be well-advised to keep its cool and composure rather than to confront the U.S. secretary of defense head on. Weinberger's public statements have been known to include assertions of a different, more sympathetic tone.

In their last meeting in Washington about a week ago, Weinberger and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir discussed strategic cooperation between the two countries. After Shamir praised this important cooperation, which he believes constitutes a "topmost deterrent factor," the two men went on to discuss practical issues such as joint planning, allowing Israel to take part in tenders for the supply of equipment and food to the U.S. forces stationed in Europe, storing medical equipment in Israel, awarding Israel development grants within the framework of the so-called "Star Wars" project, and allowing Israeli scientists to take part in research regarding U.S. equipment. Weinberger's reaction was basically positive and he promised not only to "make an effort" but also emphasized that these matters were "acceptable" to him. We do not know whether all or some of them were acceptable, but there is no doubt that we were treated as a true ally of the United States. On the same occasion, the secretary of defense stated: Military and economic relations between us **are the best.** All the reports I receive from the joint working teams (which are working to implement this strategic cooperation at President Reagan's behest) **are most positive!**

When Weinberger finished talking, he turned to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and asked him: Do you have anything to add?

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff replied: I can only add that we are **proud and very pleased** about relations between the two Armies!

Hence, despite his harsh comments in the affidavit regarding the Pollard affair, we can see cooperation on Weiberger's part. The U.S. secretary of defense has come a long way from the time he publicly dissented from the description of Israel as a "strategic asset" by various U.S. officials, including the secretary of state, to making public declarations praising Israel's strategic power and its importance to the United States.

Things must be taken in a realistic context. Weinberger's attitude toward Israel, unlike that of Shultz (and, in this respect, President Reagan's position is closer to that of Shultz), does not follow a direct line from recognition of Israel's essentiality to U.S. security to the operative conclusions called for by this recognition.

Weinberger wants "to hold Israel on a leash," namely, to supervise the control mechanism that allows the United States to oversee Israel's actions, such as antiterrorist retaliatory strikes and the attack on PLO Headquarters in Tunisia, which he mentions in his affidavit (never mind that the U.S. strike against Libya was 10 times more serious!). Hence his ardent belief that Israel's military edge should be curtailed so it will not slip from the U.S. grip.

There is no doubt the fact that a senior IDF officer, Colonel Avi'am Sela' — who was accorded hospitality by the Pentagon

and to whom Washingtons doors were open — was caught spying (he was Pollard's operator) can have an influence on the U.S. secretary of defense, but he is not likely to formulate his political credo based only on emotional reasons. To the extent that he is known here, the above has always been Weinberger's perception of, and approach to, Israel's role in the Middle East conflict, regardless of the Pollard affair.

It was Israel's bad luck that Weinberger's affidavit was leaked and that it is now forced to express "astonishment" and even to lodge its "protest," as some Israeli officials in Washington have hinted. However, a public or semipublic handling of Weinberger's blunt and vexing utterances will only play into the hands of Israel's enemies in the region and in the complex U.S. Administration. Therefore, as long as he remains the man in charge of the security tap from which the Israeli defense establishment quenches its thirst, it is best to "argue" with Weinberger quietly rather than to try and push him into a corner.

Herzog on Prevention Steps

TA051124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has expressed the hope that the necessary lessons will be drawn from the Pollard affair. During a visit to Bat Yam, Mr Herzog said he hopes this will result in the introduction of procedures that will ensure such an incident will not recur. He noted he has nothing to add to Israel's official position — that everything that happened was contrary to its policy and done in an unauthorized manner without the government's knowledge.

Rabin: Affair 'Regrettable'

TA051940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1932 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening the Pollard affair is a regrettable and sorry affair in Israeli-U.S. relations, and added that the Israeli Government has apologized for it in the past and apologizes for it now. This is an exceptional event in Israel's policy committed without the approval of the political level, Minister Rabin stated.

Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports Minister Rabin emphasized the firm relationship between the two countries and expressed the hope this serious mishap will be overcome. Mr Rabin was speaking in a memorial service for the late Minister Yisra'el Galili.

Rosenne on U.S. Reaction

TA060614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Telephone interview with Israeli Ambassador to Washington Me'ir Rosenne by announcer David Grossman — live]

[Text] [Grossman] Me'ir Rosenne, Israel's ambassador to the United States, good morning, sir.

[Rosenne] Good morning to you, too.

[Grossman] You are actually on the confrontation line there. What is your reaction to the seemingly simple question regarding the contradiction in terms between Israel's being a senior ally of the United States while carrying on espionage activity in the United States?

[Rosenne] Well, I believe this depiction of the situation is rather grossly exaggerated. I have been maintaining contacts with the Administration. Painful though the Pollard affair may be, Israel has, as will be recalled, expressed its regret through the highest echelons. Then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres personally conversed with the secretary of state. Both are members of the U.S. Administration, and members of Congress realize that in this specific case — because this was an operation not authorized by the top brass — Israel undertook an unprecedented step in the history of international espionage by allowing the U.S. investigation or prosecution teams to come to Israel and meet with anyone they wished to see.

[Grossman] But, sir, we have been hearing the primary factor that has so angered the United States is the fact that one country engages in espionage in another friendly country. Furthermore, the reaction to this has been pretty harsh.

[Rosenne] Wait a moment. Because this was done without sanction from higher-ups, it seems to me that precisely at this moment... [Rosenne changes thought] I must tell you I have just returned from a lecture at a rather important college here, where people rightfully pointed out to me that the phenomenon of officials taking action without the approval of their superiors is not exclusively Israeli. This operation was not approved by higher echelons, and the Administration believes this, and the entire U.S. delegation that returned from Israel at the time publicly thanked us for our cooperation, announcing they would have been unable to take all the legal action they had were it not for Israeli assistance.

[Grossman] Sir, you sound like you are almost presenting the affair as a conflict over bureaucratic procedure governing who is responsible and who gave orders, but the problem is the current reaction in the United States. Thus, for instance, how would you say U.S. Jews have reacted to this? What kind of feedback did you get from them?

[Rosenne] You asked me a question; permit me to answer it. The fact that operations can be carried out without approval from superiors is currently not something that requires a lot of testimony to prove; second, regarding Avi'am Sela' — and this was mentioned a number of times — an indictment was submitted and we had no opportunity to present his position after his indictment. So before the matter has been discussed at all, people have already ruled the man is guilty and measures should be taken against him. A charge sheet has been filed, but we must wait and see what the reaction to it will be.

Now, as for the reaction of the U.S. public, as we have long known, the Pollard affair did not crop up only today; this affair began more than a year ago. Obviously the whole matter resurfaced now when the sentence, which is considered particularly

harsh — a life sentence, was handed down. However, regarding Israel's role, let us not forget top Israeli leaders and the defense minister visited here since this affair was discovered, and contacts between Israel and the United States are continuing. From my conversation with the secretary of defense, I can tell you he reiterated the U.S. position on the close ties it wants to continue to maintain with Israel and on the strategic, political, and military cooperation we share. To the best of my knowledge, all scheduled meetings have indeed been held on time.

[Grossman] Sir, how do you react to Mr Weinberger's remark that Jonathan Pollard should have been hanged?

[Rosenne] Look, what was attributed in Israel to the secretary of defense is naturally not something that I would report on in the media. At any rate...

[Grossman, interrupting] Did he not say this?

[Rosenne] I will not comment on the radio on talks I held with the U.S. secretary of defense. However, I would like to reemphasize something the public will be able to see for themselves in the next few days, and that is: All the visits planned for U.S. officials to Israel will be held as scheduled. This was a serious affair, and no one is trying to minimize its severity, but because this was truly an exceptional case carried out without Israeli approval, and in light of the fact that Israel has abolished the unit accountable for this act, and due to the steps Israel has taken to prove its readiness to cooperate with the United States, I am convinced this has persuaded the U.S. political echelon we are sincere in our readiness to assist it in bringing the affair to its end.

[Grossman] One last question, Sir. We have heard from both you and other Israeli political leaders that, as time goes by, the damage to Israeli-U.S. relations will be repaired. Nevertheless, this was a real trauma. So I would ask you to kindly assess the irreversible damage caused by this affair.

[Rosenne] I do not believe it caused irreversible damage. I believe that with time it will not leave a mark on relations between the two countries because what ultimately counts in bilateral ties is far more fundamental. Of course, we did not take these events lightly and have taken all the necessary measures to make sure this is not repeated in the future, but those who wish to regard this affair as an international catastrophe, would, I believe, be grossly exaggerating.

[Grossman] Thank you very much, Mr Me'ir Rosene, Israel's ambassador to the United States.

No-Confidence Motion Submitted

TA051641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The Progressive List for Peace has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government over what it calls the government's behavior in the Pollard affair. Knesset Member Mati Peled, who submitted the motion, says this government is made up of cowards. Its ministers abandon their emissaries like wounded on the battlefield and flee the front to the safe rearguard.

Peres Raps Shamir Statement on Peace Conference

TA051430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage ommitted] Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that in an address at the Building Contractors Center in Tel Aviv, Mr Peres attacked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, without actually naming him, for saying an international conference would be a diplomatic mistake. Mr Peres hinted to Mr Shamir about the latter's opposition to the Camp David accords, saying this opposition was the biggest diplomatic mistake in Israel's history and is evidence of not-too-brilliant judgment. As for the conference, Peres said he preferred it as a means to broach direct negotiations with Jordan. He also said he prefers such an opening without the PLO over negotiations with the PLO.

In the economic sphere, Mr Peres said that according to a report by two foreign experts, exports must be increased in the next 5 years by some 9 percent; if not, there will be no chance of attaining economic stability and real growth. Israel must maintain a balanced budget and balanced wages, and invest more in promoting exports, Mr Peres said.

LIBYA

Turkish Envoy Summoned Over Attack on Kurds

LD052244 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The People's Bureau for External Liaison summoned the Turkish ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah this evening to convey to him the displeasure of the brother leader of the great 1 September revolution with the military operations of the Turkish Air Force yesterday against the Kurdish insurgents and against their towns and villages, a matter that resulted in the death of a number of innocent victims — women, children and old people.

The international center of resistance against imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction and fascism denounced the barbarous attack and the war of extermination to which the Kurdish nation is now subjected by the Turkish regime. In its statement, the international center stressed that this aggression against the Kurdish nation is an integral part of the hostile and abominable imperialist practices funded by the leader of international terrorism — America — using its tools in Turkey for the purpose of exterminating the Kurdish nation in the same barbarous way in which the red Indian nation was used at the hands of the American racists.

The international center in its concluding statement, affirmed its stand alongside the Kurdish nation in its legitimate defense of its right to life and called for halting the destructive imperialist war machine, appealing to all international bodies and organizations to play their role in exposing the Turkish regime's hostile role, and to work to strengthen the role of the progressive Kurdish forces in opposing massacres and the deadly bombs dropped by the planes of the hireling Turkish regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi Confers With Zambian Official

MB051440 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The party secretary general, Comrade Grey Zulu, who is on a 4-day visit to Libya, last night held talks with the Libyan prime minister [title as heard], Miftah al-Istah 'Umar in Tripoli. Since he arrived on Monday to attend the General People's Congress and celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of proclamation of the people's power in Libya, Comrade Zulu has had audiences with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Yesterday, the party chief visted the former house of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, which was extensively damaged in an American raid on Tripoli last year. [passage indistinct]

Meets Fatah Officials

JN051801 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A Fatah delegation met with Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Sabha yesterday evening. They made a comprehenisve review of the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas. The Fatah delegation described the results of the meeting as very positive and ones which will give a great momentum to the militant relations between the Palestinian and Libyan revolutions.

The Fatah delegation participating the Jamahiriyah's celebrations of the establishment of the people's authority is headed by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and Brother Abu al-hHwl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member. Yesterday, the delegation participated in the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the people's authority in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The delegation arrived in Tripoli last Saturday in response to an official invitation. It attended the final session of the General People's Congress in Sabha where Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered an important speech in which he stressed the importance of Palestinian national unity, pointing out that the attendance of the representatives of all Palestinian factions at the celebrations is an indication of this unity. In his speech, the Libyan leader condemned the continuous brutal aggression against and the siege imposed on the camps of our Palestinian people in Lebanon. The Libyan leader called for halting the Gulf war, stressing rejection of the occupation of any Arab land and indicating that the struggle of the Arab Shi'ites must only be under the banner of pan-Arabism.

The Fatah delegation to the celebrations received exceptional attention from Libyan officials during its stay in the Jamahiriyah.

Sudanese Group Meets With Major al-Humaydi

EA061119 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Mr Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Council of the Head of State, and his delegation met during their current visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, member of the 1 September revolution leadership, at his office in the military command in Tripoli. In the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, ways of reinforcing and developing them, and the situation in the Arab arena.

Delegations Continue To Depart After Congress

Pakistani Delegation

LD052120 Tripoli JANA in English 0823 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Marikh 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Yesterday evening, the Pakistani Islamic delegation left Tripoli after taking part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of first Jamahiriyah in history.

Burkinabe Defense Chief

LD052124 Tripoli JANA in English 1741 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Marikh 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — "Mr. Boukari Jean-Baptiste" the Council's member and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in Burkina Jamahiriya [Burkina Faso] left Tripoli this morning after his participation in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

In a statement to JANA, he expressed appreciation to the Libyan Arab people to give him this opportunity and his admiration of the great success of the Libyan Arab people in practicing direct democracy through the Basic People's Congresses.

He said that his visit is an expression of participation from Burkina Jamahiriyah in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations and solidarity with it in its struggle against imperialism.

He stressed the need to leave the African issue for Africans to settle and that Ndjamena should be free from colonial forces.

Mauritanian Delegation

LD052130 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, al Marikh 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — "Sidina Ould Sidia" the permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania and his accompanying delegation left this morning after taking part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of first Jamahiriyah in history.

In a statement to JANA on his departure from Tripoli, he expressed admiration and appreciation of what great successes he witnessed in implementing direct people's democracy through People's Congresses. He expressed thanks and gratitude to the generous hospitality they received. He stressed the deep fraternal relations that bind Great Jamahiriyah to the Republic of Mauritania.

He indicated that the Chadian issue must be settled by Africans themselves and stressed the need for the exit of colonial forces from Ndjamena.

PNC's Al-Fahum

LD052128 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 March 1987 (JANA) — Brother Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker, praised the brave principled standpoints of the great Al-Fatih revolution toward the Palestinian cause and its sincere and honest efforts to maintain the Palestinian rifle brandished in the face of the Zionist occupier enemy until victory.

In a statement to JANA before leaving Tripoli International Airport after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, during which he attended the sessions of the General People's Congress and the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 10th anniversary of the rise of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history, he praised the efforts of the Great Jamahiriyah to stop the shedding of Palestinian blood in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Brother al-Fahum expressed his great consideration for the speech of the brother leader of the revolution to the General People's Congress and said the brother leader's speech was comprehensive and left a good impression on us.

Moroccan Embassy Denies Group To Visit Israel

LD060050 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] The Moroccan Embassy to the Great al-Jamahiriyah has refuted the report that the Moroccan minister of agriculture intends to visit occupied Palestine to meet with Zionist officials. The embassy denial comes following reports that the Moroccan delegation would visit occupied Palestine to purchase Israeli agricultural equipment.

MOROCCO

Ministry: Reports of Visit to Israel 'Baseless'

LD051351 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, Mar 4 (MAP) — The Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has strongly denied recent allegations by certain press agencies on a projected visit by a delegation of this ministry to Israel.

A communique released here Wednesday terms "baseless" these rumours and underlines that such a project has never been envisaged.

Alleged Murder Attempt on Polisario Head Denied

LD061421 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, March 6 (MAP) — Algerian official media, including the news agency APS radio and TV and papers launched since Wednesday March 4 disinformation campaigns against Morocco charging the Kingdom with attempting to murder the called Mohamed Abdelaziz, head of 'Polisario' mercenaries.

Moroccan authorized circles, which were not at all surprised by this new campaign as it is not the first of its kind, strongly deny the Algerian allegations terming them "utterly groundless".

Moroccan circles specify that these methods are not and have never been part of Morocco's behaviour and ethics. In fact, the circles say, the Algerian campaign is merely aimed at hiding the dissensions within the leadership of Algiers' mercenaries.

The same circles recall that these dissensions were at the origin of fierce clashes and frequent desertions in Polisario ranks.

108 Polisario 'Mercenaries' Killed 2-5 March

LD061417 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, March 6 (MAP) — 108 mercenaries of the Algerian-backed guerrilla movement "Polisario" were killed by Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (RAF) in a wide combing operation carried out by the Moroccan Army March 2,3,4 and 5, a communique of the RAF Chief of Staff announced here last night.

During the clashes that occured following the battle of February 25, one Moroccan soldier died and nine were injured, the communique said, adding that the mercenaries have been inflicted heavy losses, namely the destruction of 14 armoured vehicles out of which were 5 Soviet-made T-55 tanks and 47 vehicles, 14 of which were burnt down along with their men aboard.

MAP Reports Shultz Message to King Hassan II

LD051352 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Washington, March 5 (MAP) — American Secretary of State George Shultz has said that the United States will continue to support what he describes as the moderate and constructive policy of Morocco adding "we are proud of the friendship uniting us to this great country".

In a video-taped message of best wishes he sent to King Hassan II of Morocco on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the king's enthronement, the U.S. secretary of state recalled that over 100 million dollars economic and military assistance is provided every year by the United States to Morocco. In addition to this assistance in areas such as agriculture, education, public health and energy, George Shultz said that more than 130 Peace Corps volunteers are now working in Morocco in the fields of water supplies in rural areas, forestry, management of natural resources and teaching of English.

He quoted King Hassan II as saying during his 1982 state visit to the U.S., "there is a great ocean between the United States and Morocco, but we should try to build a bridge of solidarity and mutual understanding".

George Shultz underlined efforts under way by the two countries with a view to promoting bilateral cooperation through the existing joint economic and military commissions whose task is to fix lines of conduct, exchange ideas and information.

He recalled the accord concluded between the two countries, in particular the accord that has enabled Morocco to become a member of the GATT and a second accord that provides for the landing of space shuttles at a Moroccan base in case of emergency.

The American secretary of state concluded his message by a tribute to the role Morocco is playing in favor of international peace.

The United States, he said, has appreciated for a long time the role of King Hassan II in the Arab world, African and European affairs and in the world at large. "We are proud of the friendship uniting us to this great country" he said.

It is to be noted that the United States and Morocco are celebrating this year the bicentennial of the friendship treaty, the oldest America has ever had with any country in the world.

King Hassan II received similar messages from American Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and USIA Chief Charles Z. Wick.

SUDAN

Radio SPLA: 'Brain' Behind Militia Killed

EA041547 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Latest reports from Bentiu said that Colonel (Maling Quai Poc), widely believed to be the brain behind Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia forces in western Upper Nile was among those killed in a clash with SPLA forces on 23 February 1987. A total of 14 militiamen were killed in this fight. Meanwhile, 22 others were seriously injured. Among the wounded was another militia commander, Colonel (Peter Tura Gatquer), whose three bullet wounds in the back may prove fatal, our correspondent said. According to the correspondent, the personal rifle of Colonel (Maling) which bears the number 73290 is now at the headquarters of western Upper Nile Zonal Command.

Radio SPLA has also learned that the two wives and four children of Brigadier Paulino Matip, the overall commander of Sadiq al-Mahdi's Militia forces in western Upper Nile, died when SPLA forces shelled Mayom late last month. Brigadier Matip himself narrowly escaped death when he fled, leaving his family behind. [passage omitted]

SPLA Warns Bentiu, Mayom Inhabitants To Evacuate

EA042019 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Major Dr Riak Macher Deng, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander for western Upper Nile, has issued a stern warning against the continued presence of the civilian population in the towns of Bentiu and Mayom. According to our correspondent, Maj Dr Riak Macher is quoted as saying that civilians in the towns of Bentiu and Mayom would be well advised to evacuate the two towns immediately for their own safety. Maj Dr Riak has said that the SPLA will not be responsible for any loss of life among civilians who disregard the warning and continue to stay in the two towns.

SPLA Reportedly Overruns Garrison, Captures Pibor

EA051605 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The official SPLMA-SPLA spokesman issued this morning, March 1987, the following military communique:

SPLA forces of the 1st Axis Command under the direct operational command of the 1st axis commander overran Pibor army garrison at 2100 Sudan local time on the night of 4 March 1987 after 7 days of tactical fighting and 3 days of heavy fighting.

The enemy forces suffered heavy casualties in men and materials. The army garrison and the entire town of Pibor is now firmly under SPLA control, and full details of the capture of Pibor will be announced by Radio SPLA as soon as they are available.

39 Casualties in SPLA Ambush, Fighting 26 Feb

EA051615 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces under the command of Captain (Simon Mangnankir) and Captain (Paul Song Rag) ambushed enemy troops on 26 February 1987 between Rub Kona and Bentiu, killing 20 enemy troops including a lieutenant who has been identified as (Zir al-Nasir). Two other enemy soldiers from the 20th Brigade based at Wad Madani were also killed. Their names have been given as (Umar Muhammad Albuw) and (Hasan Ali). According to our correspondent, 19 other enemy troops were injured in the fighting which had lasted from 1200 to 0100 [as heard] in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

WESTERN SAHARA

Moroccan Leaders Accused of Assassination Plot

LD042209 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Excerpts] From continuous hostile actions to criminal acts. The Rabat regime has failed in an attempt to assassinate Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and Polisario secretary general. This was announced by Mahmoud Abdelfettah, Polisario representative in Algeria.

The Saharan official told APS that Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri is the one who prepared the attempt. He is known for carrying out the vile and base maneuvers of the Rabat regime. The one who supervised it is named Bendjebrit, who is the head of Basri's office and his close aide. Also involved was Benhachem Abdelhafid, also known as Bouchaieb Maarouf, who is the director general of the Moroccan intelligence services and a Moroccan diplomat in France. Abdelhafid was entrusted with managing contacts and coordination in Europe. The Saharan ambassador also pointed out that Saidi, the Moroccan vice consul in Strasbourg, was assigned to hire Moroccan agents to carry out the operation.

Mahmoud Abdelfettah defined the motive for this attempt as being the direct result of the Moroccan military defeat in the Sahara and also the direct result of the presence of Zionist military advisers in Morocco, particularly the presence of Mossad agents specializing in such criminal acts. As for the aim, the Polisario representative in Europe defined it as being an attempt to create a psychological situation geared to the celebrations of the 11th aniversary of the SDAR's proclamation, to affect the morale of Polisario cadres, and perhaps to create conflicts inside the leadership.

After this, and still quoting the Polisario representative in Europe, Morocco has been reassessing the situation in the Western Sahara, in order to obtain maximum concessions [words indistinct] will have weakened after the success of its criminal act. With this behavior, the Rabat regime confirms that it follows the line of Tel Aviv and the Pretoria administration, which engineered the assassination operation of Mozambican President Samora Machel.

It must be stressed once again that the Moroccan policy of state terrorism will have the same fate as that of the military occupation of Western Sahara.

According to the latest reports on this issue, the Moroccan occupation forces have changed [word indistinct] the direction of the sixth wall. [passage omitted]

Only today, the Saharan fighters launched another attack against the Moroccan forces in the region of Bir Enzeran, which inflicted great human and material losses on them.

ETHIOPIA

Chekol Receives GDR Foreign Trade Minister

EA022210 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Wole Chekol, WPE Central Committee member and foreign trade minister, held talks at the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce Hall with the delegation led by Comrade Dr Gerhard Beil, Socialist Unity Party [SED] Central Committee member, and GDR foreign trade minister, this morning.

During the talks, Comrade Wole Chekol stressed that our countries' relations had been strengthened following the outbreak of the revolution. He enumerated the victories achieved by revolutionary Ethiopia in the political and economic spheres following the nationalization of industries, banks, and the land.

Comrade Wole added that the Combolcha textile factory, the Muger cement factory, the Bahr Dar vegetable oil factory, and the Assab [words indistinct] which have been set up in line with the strong relations and cooperation between revolutionary Ethiopia and the GDR, would play a great role in the Ethiopian economy's progress.

He revealed that many more factories would be established on the basis of the two countries' cooperation. These include awasa textiles, caustic soda, antiseptics, polyester blankets, and leather factories. He also noted that several projects would be undertaken in the energy and mining spheres and in the transport sector. Other projects including a railway line from Addis Ababa to Assab and underground services in Addis Ababa would be launched.

Dr Gerhard Beil, for his part, said revolutionary Ethiopia's economic progress since the outbreak of the revolution was very sound and praiseworthy. He added that his current visit would strengthen the two countries' relations. Dr Beil said his country would do everything in its power to assist revolutionary Ethiopia's efforts to improve the industrial sector.

Sees Visitors Off

EA051134 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1800 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] A GDR delegation led by Comrade Dr Gerhard Beil, Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee member and GDR foreign trade minister, left for home today after having signed a trade protocol for 1987 and having exchanged views on bilateral issues.

In a departure statement, Comrade Dr Gerhard Beil pointed out that his country would continue to support the construction of a second cement factory and the expansion of the textile industry, and noted that the GDR would begin importing textile products from Ethiopia this year. In general, he said, the spheres of cooperation between the two friendly countries have expanded from time to time, and he noted that the delegation has carried out extensive discussions on cooperation in trade, industrial, and other sectors during its stay in the country.

The delegation was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Wole Chekol, WPE Central Committee member and foreign trade minister.

Kenyan Delegation Attends Joint Committee Talks

Mengistu Meets Delegation

EA052126 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, received and held talks today with the visiting Kenyan delegation led by Ole Tipis, minister of state in the office of the president in charge of security and defense.

During the ceremony held at the Grand Palace this afternoon, the Kenyan minister underlined the issues raised and results achieved in the Ethiopian-Kenyan joint consultative ministerial meeting which opened in revolutionary Ethiopia this week. He said it was conducted in an atmosphere of understanding and brotherhood. He assured our comrade revolutionary leader that Kenya is determined to further enhance the friendship between the two sisterly countries and [words indistinct].

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, for his part, said history attested that Ethiopia and Kenya have been supporting and helping each other. This unity and friendship of the peoples should be further strengthened by the present generation. He said apart from their bilateral relations, the two countries have the (?historic) responsibility of coordinating between sisterly African states by joining the various development organizations of our continent. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed

EA061126 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The 29th Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Consultative Ministerial meeting, which was in session for 3 days, ended this evening. The meeting, which has been conducted in an atmosphere of friendship between the two countries, will further strengthen existing cooperation in political, economic, social, and other spheres. The protocol, which strengthens bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Kenya, was concluded at the Assembly Hall of the Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa. The agreement was signed for Ethiopia by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and foreign minister, and for Kenya by Ole Tipis, minister of state in the office of the president and in charge of security and defense.

The Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Consultative Ministerial meeting has signed protocols on science, culture, mass communications, and trade. The trade agreement was signed for Ethiopia by Comrade Wole Chekol, WPE Central Committee member and foreign trade minister, and for Kenya by his counterpart. On mass

communication, Comrade Feleke Gedle Giorgis, WPE Central Committee member and minister of information and national guidance, signed for Ethiopia and his counterpart for Kenya.

The agreements signed will not only further strengthen the existing cultural, educational, science, mass communication, and trade relations, but it has also been agreed to seek joint solutions in military, security, and border problems between the two countries. [passage omitted]

SOMALIA

Hamud Returns From Addis Ababa OAU Meeting

EA051125 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Dr Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation returned home this afternoon after attending the OAU ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The minister told newsmen that political, economic, and social issues regarding African countries were discussed. The discussion focused on improving the living conditions of African refugees and how to give financial and political support to the Frontline States. The importance of the financial health of the organization and its unity was appreciated during the meeting.

The delegation was met at Mogadishu airport by Foreign Ministry officials.

UGANDA

NRM's Kigongo Meets With DPRK Official

EA041155 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The visiting North Korean vice-minister of foreign affairs, Mr Kim Yong-sop, has called on the vice chairman of the NRM [National Resistance Movement], Haji Moses Kigongo, at his office in the parliament building in Kampala. Mr Kim Yong-sop was accompanied by the North Korean ambassador in Uganda, Mr Kim Tae-yong. In his talks with the visitor, Haji Kigongo stressed that the greatest task facing all Ugandans is to put the economy to a proper footing after years of ruin. [passage omitted]

The NRM vice-chairman paid tribute to the North Korean Government for having sent to Uganda a team of agriculturalists and doctors at a moment when the government is mounting a campaign to increase production all over the country. [passage omitted]

CAMEROON

CAR Envoy Visits, Comments on Bokassa Trial

AB052136 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A special envoy from the CAR was today received in audience at the State House by President Paul Biya. In an interview with Radio Cameroon after the audience, the envoy, Mr (Octave Hodegbe), in charge of special duties at the Presidency of the CAR, said he was bearer of a special message from Andre Kolingba to his Cameroonian counterpart. He said relations between Cameroon and CAR were excellent. Asked about the trial of former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, Mr (Hodegbe) has this to say:

[Begin (Hodegbe) recording] I am watching the judgment, like anybody at all. So, as I have just explained in French, it is a judicial question and not a political question. So, I am a spectator of the various (?developments). I am a charge de mission; I do not have any direct contact with this procedure. If you live in Bangui, you will probably note very few [as heard] that there is a judgment going on. Except that at the beginning, since it used to start in the morning, many people attended, to listen to it. So the progress of work was delayed. So the president has decided that it should start from 1 o'clock to 6 o'clock; that is, after work hours. [end recording]

CHAD

'Deep Concern' Over Libyan Use of Sudan Territory

AB051423 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 5 Mar 87

["Press communique" issued by the Chadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Ndjamena on 5 March expressing concern over the use of Sudanese border towns by Libya to launch attacks on Chad]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation informs international and national public opinion of certain things now taking place at the Sudanese-Chadian border that are likely to disturb peace and security in the region.

Whereas the situation remains [words indistinct] bombing of civilians by the Libyan Air Force, while clashes between the Chadian National Armed Forces and the Libyan aggressor forces have become a daily affair, it is regrettable to point out the confusion abroad that is likely to maintain the status quo between Chad and Libya. This campaign is even more regrettable because this is happening at the very moment when a strong contingent of the Libyan Army, reinforced by many mercenaries of various nationalities, has deeply penetrated into (?Chadian) territory through the Sudanese villages of [names indistinct].

The Chadian Government expresses its deep concern over such a serious situation, which does not help to promote the return of peace and stability in the subregion.

High Command Details Fighting at Wour, Kirdimi

AB051952 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Communique No 40 issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command [FANT] in Ndjamena on 5 March]

[Text] The FANT vise is being clamped increasingly tight on the Libyan aggressor army in the Tibesti and Borkour regions. The FANT taught the (?Libyan attackers) two good lessons today, 5 March, at Wour, in the Tibesti region [words indistinct] in the Borkou. The clash at Wour, which is located east of Bardai, took place at 0900 local time. This is the tally of that attack:

Enemy side: 25 Libyan corpses abandoned on the battlefield; destroyed equipment: two 106 mm guns, 2 ground-to-ground [sol-sol] Toyotas, two 14-5 Toyotas; equipment recovered: (?19) 106 mm guns recovered.

Ally side: nil

As can be expected, the enemy was put to flight. This is the tally of the violent fighting that took place today, 5 March, at 1000 local time between our valiant FANT and the annexationist Libyan forces at Kirdimi, 80 km northwest of Faya, in the Borgou:

Enemy side: (?36) Libyans killed; 19 Libyans captured; equipment recovered: two 106-mm guns, (?9) ground-to-ground Toyotas [as heard],(?9) Toyota 65's recovered.

Ally side: nil.

Here also the Libyan occupattionist army was put to the flight. The FANT, great army of the Chadian people, proud of the unflinching support of the entire Chadian people, will efficiently discharge their noble duties. Forward, valiant children of Chad for the total recovery of our land occupied by the (?Libyan enemy).

ZAIRE

President Mobutu Meets With FRG Foreign Minister

For reportage on the 4 March meeting between President Mobutu Sese Seko and FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn, in which they discusses Zaire's economic problems and Chad, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 5 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

GHANA

Delegations Arrive for Anniversary Celebrations

Rawlings Meets Soviets, Others

AB051957 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, today received six foreign delegations to Ghana's 30th independence anniversary celebrations at the Castle, Osu. They are those of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bulgaria, China, the Soviet Union, Algeria, Niger, and France.

Chairman Rawlings observed that there is still much more work to be done among members of the Nonaligned Movement. This is because a good number of members are still suffering from deprivation. Chairman Rawlings said members of the movement, who have been able to take care of the problem of deprivation, have a duty to help the less fortunate ones to realize their aspirations. The PNDC chairman noted that advancements made by Ghana over the past 5 years could not have been achieved without external assistance. He expressed the country's appreciation to efforts made by the DPRK and other friendly countries to complement Ghana's forward movement toward freedom and justice. Ghana's desire to see the total liberation and unification of the African Continent can be complemented by the unification efforts of the two Koreas. Flight Lt Rawlings praised the Koreans for their hard work and hoped that the two countries could share ideas on mobilization of people for national reconstruction.

The leader of the DPRK delegation, Mr Kim Pong-ul, who is also that country's minister for labor administration, praised the economic and social reforms being pursued by the PNDC. He also expressed appreciation of the government efforts in the struggle against colonialism and racism in southern Africa and for its support for the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Kim said his country is prepared to cooperate with Ghana to ensure that will be mutually beneficial to both countries.

Turning to the Soviet delegation led by Mr B.I. Songayla, vice president, Chairman Rawlings said Ghanaians are beginning to understand imperialist maneuvers and the humiliation suffered by the people of the Third World in the hands of colonialism. Mr Songayla on his part said his country highly appreciates the efforts of Ghana toward world peace. He said the process initiated by Dr Nkrumah and the 31st December revolution is ample testimony that Ghana is aspiring for greater national achievements.

The Algerian minister of public affairs [title as heard] and leader of his country's delegation, Mr Ahmed Benfreha, said Algeria is following development in Ghana with keen interest. He stated that the advances of the ongoing process in Ghana is a source pride to the Algerian people.

The leader of the Niger delegaiton, Mr Hadji Nadjir, who is also minister of justice, said Ghana is a source of inspiration to Niger because the independence of Ghana paved the way for others to follow. He expressed satisfaction with conclusions reached at the last meeting of the Ghana-Niger permanent commission for cooperation.

Ivorian Delegation Participates

AB052143 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Ivory Coast is present at the ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of Ghana's independence. The Ivorian delegation to the celebration is being led by Minister of State Paul Gui Dibo. It also includes Foreign Minister Simeon Ake; Parliamentarian Gomi Bi Zaouli; and Brou Gustave, a member of the Social and Economic Council.

Zambian Prime Minister, Others

AB060743 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The Zambian prime minister, Mr Musokotwane, arrived in Accra this afternoon to represent his country at the 30th anniversary celebrations of Ghana's independence. On the same plane was the information minister of Zimbabwe, Dr Shamuyarira, who is leading the Zimbabwe delegation. With him was Sally Mugabe, wife of the Zimbabwe prime minister, Mr Mugabe. Also on the plane was a two-man ANC delegation led by the secretary general, Mr Alfred Nzo. [passage omitted]

So far, about 30 delegations are in Accra for the celebrations. The latest are from Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. The leader of the four-man Nigerian delegation, Brigadier A.B. Mamman, a member of the AFRC [Armed Forces Ruling Council], toid newsmen that Ghana and Nigeria share common views on international as well as regional matters. He said by participating in the anniversary celebrations, Nigeria is demonstrating the good-neighborliness that exists between Ghana and Nigeria.

The leader of Cote d'Ivoire delegation, Mr Gui Dibo, said Ghana's independence was an inspiration to other countries.

Commentary Reviews 30 Years of Independence

AB051636 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Joe Brandford Nyinah commentary]

[Text] For the 30th time, Ghanaians are celebrating the anniversary of their independence. Celebrations of this kind seem to have become so routine that people tend to overlook their significance and the obligations they impose on them. March 6, perhaps, is the most important event in Ghana's history. It was the day Ghana as a nation broke her colonial link and became an independent sovereign state. From that day onwards, whatever has happened in this country is the doing of Ghanaians. The sound economic and industrial foundation that was laid by the Convention People's Party government, that government's policy of pan-Africanism and its accommodating foreign policy, which

won Ghana an enviable reputation among the community, were all made possible by Ghanaians.

The CIA-sponsored coup d'etat in 1966, the turning of Ghana into a neocolony, and the sale of the nation's assets to private capital, were also the doing of Ghanaians. For, no matter the strength of world imperialism, it can never succeed to subvert a nation where the people have a determined resolve to build a truly independent national economy. As we mark the 30th anniversary of our nationhood, therefore, Ghanaians should reflect on what happened to this dear nation of our's. What happened, that the once bright star of Africa became a thing of ridicule even among nations that we provided political and social leadership?

It is known that at the time of independence 30 years ago, Ghana had a per capita income of 50 pounds sterling. The Tema Harbor was built from our own development resources. About 124 million pounds sterling out of the 125.5 million pounds for the 5-year development plan was from Ghana's own resources. Only 1.5 million pounds came from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. How come then that by the mid-1970's Ghana had one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world? The answer can be found in two facts: lack of commitment of political leaders to the ideals of the founding fathers of modern Ghana, and a people forced to resign themselves to fate.

For years, patriotism meant nothing to the Ghanaians; all that mattered was to survive, even if at the detriment of the nation. Honest citizens were taken for fools. It is, therefore, the duty of every Ghanaian to use the occasion of the independence anniversary to pledge support for the PNDC and help in diverse ways to build a society free from want and fear, and for the attainment of happiness. Our resolve should be that by the time Ghana will be 35 years, no man shall fear political, economic, and social oppression. No woman shall be anxious that her child shall not be cared for or educated. We should resolve to build a Ghana in which the people shall look forward to an ever-increasing social benefit and ever-widening opportunity for the enjoyment of leisure and culture.

This anniversary has come at a time when there is an earnest search for a viable, acceptable, and suitable political system. This is important because if there is one fact that has accounted for part of the confusion in this country, it is the fact that for a long time, Ghana has experimented with foreign political models. Silver and gold we have none to give to Mother Ghana on her 30th birthday. But let us pledge patriotism, productivity, and sincerity. These are what will let our crippled mother get up and walk to take her rightful place in the comity of nations. May a free, prosperous, and stable Ghana live forever.

GHANAIAN TIMES on Security Measures at Airport

AB051036 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 5 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Ghanaian Times* comments on the new security measures announced for the Accra airport. Under these regulations, only travelers can enter the arrival and departure halls. Unregistered porters are no more allowed to operate or loiter there, and it is illegal for anyone to accept their services. The airport tarmac is out of bounds to all vehicles, except those used by airlines and with the airline's insignias embossed on them.

The *Times* feels these regulations have implications that must be clear, too. First of all, the airlines vehicles and staff authorized to enter the tarmac should not be permitted to mix with arriving or departing passengers and take away from or give to them letters, parcels, or luggage. If passengers must be taken to or from a plane or bus, only one authorized official escort in uniform per bus is necessary. The *Times* says it does not know of any country where officials, even protocol officials, go right up into the arrival hall to help and escort out arriving UN guests. But this, says the paper, is what happens at Accra airport.

The *Times* notes that no angels arrive at the airport. All the passengers are human beings, capable of indulging in travelers' malpractices; so every passenger should be regarded in that light. The paper, therefore, calls on the chief security coordinator at the airport to enforce strict compliance of the regulations.

GUINEA

Soviet Trade Representative on Increased Activity

AB060755 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Commercial ties between our country and the Soviet Union are in good shape. The new commercial representative of the Soviet Union, Mr (Vadim Polov,) has expressed his readiness to promote useful and profitable exchanges between his country and Guinea. This was at a cocktail party he organized at his residence today. Among those present at the cocktail party were officials of general management of national enterprises, [name indistinct] traders, and Guinean businessmen, as well as journalists of the national press.

In a short address which he delivered on the occasion, Mr (Vadim) said that while he is at post as commercial representative, he will endeavor to do his best so that the commercial and economic cooperation between Guinea and the Soviet Union will be developed on a mutually beneficial and equal basis. It must be recalled that the first long-term agreement on trade between the Soviet Union and Guinea was signed in September 1960 and it remains in force up to the present day. During the past 4 years, Soviet-Guinean trade has made rapid progress and its annual volume exceeds $100 million today. [passage omitted]

French Fund Grants Loan for Recovery Plan

AB051119 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation has opened two lines of credit totaling Fr95 million for the Central Bank. On 28 February 1987, two financial agreements were signed between the Republic of Guinea, represented by Economic and Finance Minister Lamine Bolivogui and Central Bank Governor Kerfala Yansane, and the Central Fund for Economic

Cooperation, represented by its Conakry resident director, Mr Yves Lecamille.

The two agreements support the Guinean Government's economic recovery policy by refinancing loans that will be granted to the private sector by Guinean commercial banks. One major agreement is intended to facilitate and accelerate granting refinanced loans within the range of Fr50 million for the creation of new enterprises and for the rehabilitation or renovation of public corporation equipment that has to be totally or partially privatized with the participation of national or foreign shareholders.

Two lines of credit worth Fr45 million for refinancing loans less or equal to the Guinean franc exchange value of Fr1 million have been opened for the creation of small- and medium-size enterprises in all sectors of the Guinean economy, except that of real estate. Beneficiaries of these loans could be private promoters and civil servants who are prepared to switch over to production or service activities. [passage omitted]

LIBERIA

New Teachers' Association Replaces NULT

AB051132 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Teachers throughout the country have agreed to organize Liberian teachers under the banner of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia and not the National Union of Liberian Teachers, NULT. The decision, according to a resolution adopted by the teachers' representatives on 28 February, is in compliance with a recent joint resolution of the Legislature, approved by the president of Liberia, restraining NULT from functioning under that name until at such time they shall have been regularly constituted and incorporated under such name under the law.

In a five-count resolution, the teachers' representatives said all officials, national executives, the representative council, and all those elected by teachers under NULT will continue to function in their capacities as leaders of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.

MALI

USSR Grants Loan for Transportation of Goods

AB051042 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A protocol agreement was signed yesterday between Mali and the Soviet Union under which the USSR grants Mali a loan of R2 million, or 1 billion CFA francs. This agreement is to settle charges for the transportation of goods from the harbors of Dakar and Abidjan to the Soviet-Mali cooperative worksite in Mali.

The agreement was signed on the Malian side by Abdoulaye Amadu Sy, Malian ambassador to the USSR, and on the Soviet side by Comrade Chernyshov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Prime Minister Receives DPRK Party Delegation

AB051816 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Prof Mamadou Dembele received a DPRK Workers Party delegation led by Comrade (Kim Pong-chu), responsible for the Korean Workers Party Central Committee International Affairs Department, at Koulouba Palace this morning. During this audience, bilateral relations as well as international issues of common interest, in particular the issue of Korea's reunification, were examined at length. Prime Minister Prof Mamadou Dembele lauded the Korean participation in the cultural, industrial, and agricultural sectors in Mali, in particular the construction of the Palace of Culture and the (Sononko) irrigation project. Regarding the ceramics factory, a joint management will be set up to enable Malian technicians to exchange their experience with their Korean counterparts whose know-how is very much appreciated in Mali, Prof Mamadou Dembele stated.

For his part, (Kim Pong-chu) said he was highly impressed by the victory of the Malian people in their fight for the advent of a new society and the achievement of an independent and planned economy, under the leadership of Democratic Union of Malian People General Secretary General Moussa Traore. [passage omitted]

NIGERIA

Babangida Returns Following Operation in Paris

AB050818 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] President Ibrahim Babangida has promised to rededicate himself to bring about a better and more prosperous Nigerian nation. In a nationwide broadcast this morning following his return to Lagos last night from France, the president said that he had come back with greater determination for further sacrifice in the service of the nation. He once again thanked the entire people of Nigeria for their concern and good wishes over his illness which took him to France. He declared: Your continued support and good will has reinforced my (?cherished and shared) hope in the progress, peace, and stability of our nation. President Babangida said that this year promised to be an eventful one which would witness difficult and momentous decisions. Such decisions, he said, would have far-reaching implications on the society. Again he declared: With your devotion and perseverance, I am convinced that the problems which confront us will be overcome. The president expressed deep appreciation to his colleagues who maintained the continuity of government and oversaw the affairs of the nation during his absence.

General Babangida was away for almost a month during which he underwent a surgical operation to remove the cause of pains in his right leg. He was accompanied by his wife and some aides.

The president was welcomed back last night at Murtala Muhammed Airport by a high-powered official team and representatives of various groups and associations in the country. The official welcoming party was headed by the chief of General Staff, Rear Admiral Augustus Aikhomu. The president's route from the airport to Dodan Barracks was lined up by a groups of people who were anxious to catch a glimpse of him.

OBSERVER Urges President's Attention to Problems
AB051039 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 5 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Observer* joins all Nigerians in extending a warm welcome to President Ibrahim Babangida who returned home yesterday after a 1-month stay in France, where he received medical treatment.

While the paper wishes him a speedy recovery, it notes with satisfaction the political calm that prevailed in his absence. It says this should be a source of pride to all Nigerians.

The *Observer*, however, draws the president's attention to a number of problems facing the country which need his urgent handling.

The paper, particularly, refers to the increasing activities of smugglers, the poor performance of the naira against other currencies, and the plight of Nigerian students abroad.

ANGOLA

Polish Party Delegation Arrives on 4-Day Visit

MB031531 Dakar PANA in French 1240 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Launda, 3 Mar (ANGOP/PANA) — Mr Stanislaw Bejger, Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR] Politburo candidate member, arrived in Luanda last Monday for an official 4-day visit. During his stay in Angola, he will hold talks with Angolan party and Government officials. The head of the Polish delegation is accompanied by Mr Leszek Miller, first secretary of the Skieniewice provincial committee, and Lech Miodek, an official of the PZPR's International Department. During its stay in Angola, the Polish delegation and the Angolan authorities will sign a number of cooperation accords in various fields.

It should be recalled that shortly after his arrival, Mr Bejger went to the People's Palace and placed a wreath at the grave of President Agostinho Neto, the Angolan revolution's immortal guide.

Dos Santos Meets Group

MB031438 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, MPLA-Labor Party chairman and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received a Polish delegation headed by Stanislaw Bejger, Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR] Politburo candidate member, in an audience at Futungo de Belas in Luanda this morning. The audience was attended by Comrade Maria Mambo Cafe, MPLA-Labor Party Politburo candidate member and minister of state for economic and social affairs; Mendes de Carvalho, Angola's ambassador to the Polish People's Republic; and the Polish ambassador to Angola.

Visit Ends; Communique Issued

MB051430 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] An agreement between the parties of Angola and Poland marked the conclusion of the visit by Stanislaw Bejger, Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] Politburo candidate member.

The final communique described the Polish official's visit to our country as a valuable contribution to the development of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the MPLA-Labor Party and the PZPR. The talks between the delegations headed by Stanislaw Bejger and Maria Mambo Cafe [MPLA-Labor Party Politburo and minister of state for economic and social affairs] centered on the social and political situation in Angola and Poland, as well as on the international situation.

The final communique reiterated both delegations' solidarity with the South African and Namibian peoples, as well as their support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78. The two delegations also supported the USSR and the socialist community's initiative to contain the arms race.

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks

MB041156 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by P. Koshelev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Maputo this morning. The delegation is here to take part in the Mozambique-USSR Joint Cooperation Commission session in Maputo tomorrow.

The session will discuss in detail the two countries' cooperation in the technical, economic, and trade fields. The commission will also examine the implementation of the basic principles of the 1981-1990 long-term program and the prospects for the development of cooperation.

Koshelev, who is a cochairman of the Mozambique-USSR Joint Cooperation Commission, said he expects an agreement to be signed for the use of new agricultural lands in the Inkomati River basin, as well as for improvement and rehabilitation of its irrigation network.

The delegation was welcomed by Finance Minister Magid Osman.

Talks Begin

MB051159 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Mozambique and the USSR began talks in Maputo this morning within the framework of cooperation between the two countries. Documents will be signed at the session on the involvement of both countries in the development of projects in Mozambique.

Magid Osman, minister of finance and cochairman of Mozambique-USSR Joint Cooperation Commission, described the talks as very important. He said they were to define new forms of cooperation within the spirit of the economic rehabilitation program. He emphasized that the talks were taking place during the 10th anniversary of the signing of Mozambique-USSR Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

Delegates on Talks

MB060703 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Finance Minister Magid Osman expressed satisfaction candidate member yesterday with the results of the Mozambique-USSR Joint Commission talks. Speaking at a reception he hosted in honor of the Soviet delegation, Magid Osman hailed the USSR's readiness to support Mozambique's economic rehabilitation efforts.

Petr Koshelev, the head of the Soviet delegation, appealed for maintaining a spirit of mutual understanding and reciprocity in

resolving problems during this phase of Mozambique's economic rehabilitation.

Present at the reception were Mineral Resources Minister John Kachamila and Secretary of State for Fisheries Tenreiro de Almeida.

NAMIBIA

Academics, Businessmen Hold Talks With SWAPO

MB051657 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A group of Namibian businessmen and academics has had talks with SWAPO and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in Lusaka. The group, consisting of the Windhoek academy for tertiary education vice rector, Johan Fourie; dean of the academy's faculty of arts, Brian Hallech-Jones; and the general manager of Shell Namibia, Kevin Chomse, returned from their 3-day visit yesterday. The visit is the latest by prominent Namibians. Most of the visits are believed to have been initiated by SWAPO. Subjects discussed by this group apparently included the question of private investment in the territory and the prospects of nationalization should SWAPO come to power. Mr Nujoma's response to questions is not known.

Next week, members of the Namibian German community's special interest group will visit Lusaka after spending some time in Harare.

Voice of Namibia on SWAPO Military Successes

EA051100 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] We comment on the exploits of PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] on the battlefield. Right from the beginning of 1987, the year of rededication to liberation, the indefatigable combatants of the PLAN, SWAPO's invincible military wing, rededicated themselves to liberation with devastating blows against the hated enemy on the battlefield.

A SWAPO war communique for the month of January enumerated PLAN's combat actions with characteristic precision. The communique, issued in the Angolan capital, Luanda, on 26th February, disclosed that some 180 enemy troops were killed or wounded in a concentrated stream of battles totalling 56 combat actions during the first month of the year. It also revealed that 14 gallant fighters for freedom and justice sacrificed their lives in the execution of their patriotic responsibilities.

According to the SWAPO communique, two enemy military helicopter gunships were shot down on 10th and 15th January, while two major South African military bases at Ruacana and (Ovanguena) in northern Namibia also came under heavy artillery and machine gun fire from the liberation armed forces.

Other combat exploits included the destruction of 30 South African military vehicles as a result of PLAN landmine explosions and ambushes and the blasting of the Oshakati branch of the British banking giant, Barclay's Bank.

The communique dismissed as utterly false Pretoria's much publicised claims that her troops had killed some 60 PLAN combatants inside Angola on 25th January. The truth, the SWAPO communique retorted, is that there was no military engagement between PLAN combatants and South African troops in or about that date inside Angola.

The sharp intensification of the armed liberation struggle inside Namibia can be discerned from the now too frequent war communiques of the enemy with their inflated figures of so-called SWAPO casualties. The illegal occupationist enemy has even reported that PLAN combatants were seen on horseback in the white farming area of north central Namibia also known as the triangle of death.

PLAN and indeed the overwhelming majority of our oppressed nations is determined to increase the cost of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. The fascist enemy will continue to pay dearly in both men and materiel for a detested occupation. The continued obstinacy of the Bothas and the Malans has brought the peace- and freedom-loving Namibian people to the realization that it is only the language of the bullet and the rocket that is well understood by these criminals. Our determination will never be extinguished.

The erratic enemy propaganda aside, the racists in Pretoria and their stooges in Windhoek know only too well that on the ground, things are not as rosy as their propagandists would like the world to believe. Our heroic people will leave no stone unturned in their march to victory. And as sure as day follows night, victory will be ours. Forward to victory with plan. Everything for the struggle. All for victory.

Court Hears Testimony of Detainee Beatings

MB060845 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0751 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Windhoek March 6 SAPA — It was sometimes necessary for the police to beat up detainees to obtain the truth from them, the Windhoek Supreme Court heard yesterday.

A police counterinsurgency unit officer, Captain Frans Ballach, said in evidence that he had beaten a prisoner, Mr Johnny Heita, because "he told lies, but after being assaulted he was completely willing to tell the truth."

Mr Heita is standing trial on various charges under the Terrorism Act. The coaccused in the trial, which began last year, are: Mr Gabriel Matthews, Mr Johannesd Nangolo, Mr Andreas Tangeni, Mr Martin Ankweenda, Mr Petrus Nangombe and Mr Sagarius Shipanga.

Mr Heita was asked to remove his shirt in court yesterday and showed the judge, Mr Justice Harold Levy, thick scar tissue over his back. Capt Ballach confirmed that he had beaten Mr Heita which resulted in the scars. "I gave the man what we can term a

good hiding," he said.

Other policemen told the court earlier that the prisoners had been assaulted, but they felt the use of violence was justified to extract information about the location of explosives caches.

An investigating official, Warrant Officer Hermanus van der Hoven, said in evidence that an Army officer had told him that Mr Heita's injuries were so serious that he needed a skin graft.

Capt Ballach said no records, including medical records, were kept of prisoners, and he denied that SWAPO insurgents killed in action, and those who died in detention, were buried secretly. Capt Ballach said in cross-examination by the defence counsel, Mr Bryan Olinn, that no inquests were carried out on their deaths, but he denied a suggestion that the absence of files was to conceal police treatment of prisoners and to complicate matters for the courts.

The purpose of the police counterinsurgency unit, popularly known as Koevoet, [Crowbar] was "to track down SWAPO terrorists and exterminate them", he said. Koevoet was subject to police regulations, and Capt Ballach agreed he would have arrested anyone on the street for perpetrating an assault similar to the one on Mr Heita.

The prosecution earlier withdrew five statements, allegedly written by the accused.

According to evidence before the court, various forms of coercion were used to obtain information from detainees, including the "food and water" treatment, in which a detainee is denied food for up to three days, and then food is provided but it is taken away as soon as he went to eat. When a detainee is thirsty, water is poured over his body.

SOUTH AFRICA

Heunis Gives Figures on Black Resettlement

MB051201 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1037 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] House of Assembly March 5 SAPA — Altogether 64,180 black people were resettled in South Africa or moved to the homelands in 1986, the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said today. According to written replies to questions by Mr Errol Moorcroft [PFP Albany], at least another 21,973 people are still to be resettled. Mr Heunis said 61,228 blacks had been resettled in South Africa last year, while 2,952 had been moved from urban areas in the Republic to the homelands.

Of future resettlements, the minister said that, apart from decisions to move six towns or communities in the Transvaal and one in the Cape, no definite decision on other resettlements had been taken. The decisions for the removal of the seven communities, which he said had a total population of about 21,973 to 22,973, had not been made on political grounds. Decisions for other future removals would be taken on merit and in line with the white paper on urbanisation and the state president's statement that "unorderly squatting" or illegal occupation of land could not be allowed. The people still to be resettled in the Transvaal lived at Oukasie, near Brits; Haasbult at Soekmekaar; Thusang at Roedtan, an unamed town at Duiwelskloof; Tshikoto at Louis Trichard; and the Wheelers farm squatter community near Vanderbijlpark; while in the Cape, the Mcnaughtons section of the Kabah Township at Uitenhage was to be moved.

Mr Heunis said voluntary relocation at Oukasie had been "gaining momentum" over the years and was still taking place daily. The estimated 10,000 residents of Oukasie had to be resettled because of poor health conditions and because upgrading of the area would cost more than relocation. Mr Heunis said "a few" residents of Oukasie might not be prepared to relocate voluntarily. "If this turns out to be the case, it will be to their advantage to force them to relocate. It will not be feasible to upgrade Oukasie for the sake of a few persons."

The next largest population to be resettled was that at Mcnaughtons near Uitenhage, which had a population of 7,230 people. Mr Heunis said it had been decided "years ago" that the residents of Kabah should be relocated to Kwanobuhle, the new black area at Uitenhage, so that the land vacated could be used for the extension of the coloured township. Because of voluntary relocation over the years, only those blacks living in the Mcnaughtons section of Kabah still had to be relocated. "Their voluntary relocation is not considered problematic."

At Wheelers farm, with an estimated population of 3,000 to 4,000, illegal squatting was taking place "under slum conditions on private property", Mr Heunis said. "These squatters must, therefore, be relocated elsewhere on an orderly and legal basis" and a suitable site was being sought.

Referring to black families at Soekmekaar, Duiwelskloof, Reodtan and Louis Trichardt, Mr Heunis said the government had for more than 20 years intended to relocate them to nearby homelands and to retain the black towns for single people. Most of the families at Soekmekaar, Duiwelskloof and Louis Trichardt had relocated voluntarily over the years, while Roedtan residents had said they were willing to move as soon as a resettlement area was found in Lebowa.

Voluntary relocation was continuing in Duiwelskloof, Soekmekaar and Louis Trichardt and would commence in Roedtan as soon as a resettlement area had been identified and planned. Mr Heunis said residents of Haasbult at Soekmekaar would be moved to Magops in Lebowa; those from Roedtan to a proposed town in Lebowa, probably in the Zebediela area; those from Duiwelskloof to Gakapane in Lebowa; and those from Tshikoto to Waterval in Gazankulu, Vleyfontein in Venda, and to Seshego in the case of northern Sothos.

Oukasie residents were being resettled in Lethlabile, a SA Development Trust Town; while land for settlement of Wheelers farm squatters would be identified in the Sebokeng/Evaton area. It was not known when resettlement would be finalised, nor were total costs known as they fluctuated during the "continuous process" of resettlement. Mr Heunis said those who had already moved voluntarily from Kabah and Langa at Uitenhage and from Oukasie formed part of the total of 61,228 moved within

South Africa last year.

Others were moved from the Ennerdale coloured area to Soweto and from Dalmany to Avon-Innes as a result of consolidation proposals.

The 2,952 blacks moved from urban areas in South Africa to the homelands had all been resettled at their own request. The moves were from the Witwatersrand to Transkei, Venda, Lebowa, Swaziland, KwaNdebele, Kangwane, Qwaqwa, Bophuthatswana, Lesotho and KwaZulu; from Kimberley, Delportshoop, Barkly West, Coligny, Potchefstroom, Ventersdorp, Klerksdorp, Ottosdal, Carletonville and Stilfontein to Bophuthatswana and from Louis Trichardt to Venda.

Mr Moorcroft also asked the minister of education and development aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, how many blacks had been resettled within the homelands. Dr Viljoen replied that this figure was not known as the homelands themselves were responsible for such resettlements. His department had, however, resettled 764 families from Moutse, KwaNdebele, in the Immerspan/Sallieloot area, which is to be incorporated in Lebowa. This had been done at the families' request.

Afrikaner 'Mob' Attacks NP Offices, Cinema

MB051457 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1453 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 5, SAPA — The National Party's candidate for Pietersburg, Mr Tjol Lategan, today dismissed brick-throwing attacks on his offices and a newly-desegregated cinema complex as "the dying agonies of a beast."

A mob of Afrikaans-speaking whites struck at the two premises in Pietersburg early today, pelting them with bricks.

Apart from a cracked glass door at the Astra cinema complex, little damage was caused.

Mr Lategan — who is also a member of the President's Council — said a mini-bus load of whites struck at the NP's offices at 2 am today, but were driven off — swearing — when caretakers switched on floodlights.

They then proceeded to the Astra cinema complex — which was recently opened to all races — but were surprised by the police.

But their mini-bus apparently outpaced the police van.

Assistant divisional police commanding officer Col B.J. van Eeden said the incidents were being investigated.

Police dismissed allegations that the attacks constitued the culmination of an "opmars" [advance] by supporters of the Afrikaner Weestandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement].

Observers said the attacks were clearly politically inspired.

"But it seems that because whites are involved they are not being classified as unrest by the authorities."

The men had apparently brought their own supply of bricks along in their vehicle, Mr Lategan said.

The same type of brick was found at both premises.

Astra cinema owner Mr Sidney Segal said that Mr Lategan had played a significant role in having the cinema opened to all.

The provincial authorities recently overruled a municipal decision to maintain racial segregation at the Astra.

Police Arrest Witness During Inquest Hearing

MB051017 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0846 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg March 5 SAPA — The inquest hearing into the death of journalist Makompo Lucky Kutumela got off to a dramatic start yesterday when a security policeman walked into court and arrested a star witness under emergency regulations, the *Sowetan* reported today.

The detained man is Mr Kgalabe Kekana, a trade unionist and a regional organiser of the Media Workers Association of South Africa.

He was to testify as a family witness in the inquest hearing being held at Mokopane Magistrates Court.

The station commander at the Mokopane police station was testifying when Mr Kekana, who had been sitting outside court, dashed into court with the security policemen in hot pursuit.

A scuffle ensued and family advocate Mr Dikgang Moseneke applied for a adjournment of the hearing.

The magistrate, Mr M.B. Mabuza, granted the adjournement and the security policeman who identified himself as Sergeant Gouws of the security police, informed Mr Moseneke that he was detaining Mr Kekana "under the Internal Security Act in terms of the state of emergency." He said he did not need a warrant for the arrest.

Earlier in the morning a Lebowa police constable had been stopped by the family attorney from arresting Mr Kekana, who, he said was needed for another case related to the inquest. He left after being told the case had been withdrawn in the Pietersburg Regional Court in November last year.

Mr Moseneke addressed the court after the adjournment and said it was "totally unacceptable that the police should walk in and cause a scuffle in court. It amounts to a contempt of court as they could have requested an adjournment or guarded all entries to make sure the witness could not escape. This is going to impair our preparation for this matter as he is going to be needed to testify."

Counsel for the police, Mr J.A. Wessels, concurred with Mr Moseneke, but said he did not know "at this stage" whether it was a contempt of court "as we do not have all the details."

Mr Kekana was arrested with Mr Kutumela on April 4 last year and was to have testified in the hearing. He was detained by members of the South African Defence Force two weeks ago and released two days later without being charged.

Tutu Rejects Violence, Threatens To Sue SABC

MB060709 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0231 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Grahamstown March 5 SAPA — The archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, said tonight he supported the African National Congress in its aim to work for a new South Africa — non-racial, democratic and just — but did not support its modus operandi.

He also dared the SABC to again accuse him of supporting violence, saying he was sick and tired of "their dirty game", and said he would take it to court.

Speaking at Rhodes University's SRC [Student Representative Council] opening last night, Archbishop Tutu said he did not support the methods of the ANC and challenged the authorities to charge him with supporting violence.

The archbishop said his opposition to apartheid stemmed from his knowledge of the Bible. He said he would burn his Bible and cease to be a Christian if it could be proved that the Bible justified apartheid.

"I oppose and condemn all violence. The teaching of the church is that all violence is evil, but there comes a time when you have to choose between two evils. Which is the lesser? Do you allow Hitler unfettered freedom to put children in the gas chamber or do you go to war to stop Nazism?

"People get all worked up when I say there could well come a time when we could exclaim that it is justifiable to overthrow apartheid by force. I have not said that time has come. It is no use villifying and trying to discredit me. That is just the case.

"After all, if it is not true that you can sometimes justifiably overthrow apartheid violently, then why is it that the Afrikaners fought what they called their 'vryheidsoorloe' [liberation wars]? Are they all terrorists?

Turning to reform, the archbishop said reform was not wanted. Apartheid was a horrible vicious monster that could not be reformed. Real negotiation with authentic representation, including the ANC and PAC leaders in jail, was what was required.

Minister Reveals Release of Security Prisoners

MB051153 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1044 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] House of Assembly March 5 SAPA — Altogether, 57 people serving sentences for offences against the "security of the state" were released last year, five of whom had renounced violence, the minister of justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said today in written reply to a question from Mr Dave Dalling (PFP Sandton).

Mr Coetsee said the fact that they renounced violence was an important factor which was considered together with individual circumstances and all other relevant factors which are normally taken into account when the release of prisoners is considered".

Mr Dalling had asked if any of these released prisoners were freed as a result of "the state president's offer of freedom to long-term prisoners on condition that they renounce violence".

Justice Minister Reports 114,000 in Prisons

MB060936 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0830 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] There were more than 114,000 prisoners in South Africa prisons in December last year. Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetzee said in reply to a question in the House of Assembly that prisons were designed to hold just over 84,000 inmates. Everything possible was being done to keep prisoners productively occupied, and many work outside during the day. Prisoners could also use the spacious quadrangles and have sufficient opportunity to relax outdoors.

SAIRR Report Finds Drop in Political Violence

MB051936 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1932 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg, March 5, SAPA — Political violence in South Africa has claimed 2,387 lives during the past two and a half years, but is now quite clearly on the wane, the South African Institute of Race Relations [SAIRR] said in Johannesburg today.

The institute said that 21 people had died last month. This compared with a revised figure of 40 for January this year and was the second lowest monthly figure since January 1985.

The institute said the average daily fatality rate during the last six months (Spetember to February) was slightly more than one per day, compared with more than five per day during the preceding six months (March to August).

The other noteworthy trend, the institute said, was that conflict within black communities had replaced security force action as the main cause of fatalities. In 1985, security force action had accounted for half of all fatalities, and conflict within black communities for about a third. Last year the positions had been reversed.

The remaining fatalities had occurred in circumstances which were not clear.

The number of fatalities during each of the five six-month periods since the political violence began in September 1984 was as follows:

First period (September 1984 to February 1985): 188

Second period (March 1985 to August 1905): 492

Third period (September 1985 to February 1986): 565

Fourth period (March 1986 to August 1986): 955

Fifth period (September 1986 to February 1987): 187

The institute said that the actual number of fatalities in recent months could be higher than its statistics indicated, since emergency regulations made it more difficult to obtain information. Even allowing for this, violence had quite clearly been on the wane, the institute said.

Government Announces New Aid Program for Farmers

MB051236 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, has announced an additional 237 million rand in aid to farmers to help alleviate agriculture's immediate financial plight. Speaking at a farmers day at Bethal, Mr Wentzel said the emergency measures were in response to recommendations by the state president's advisory council after an investigation last year into the financial position of agriculture. He said that due to circumstances beyond their control, farmers could no longer carry on with their own financial resources and had to be helped on a merit basis. The measures not only included the alleviation of the immediate financial plight, but also basic structural changes which would help the situation in the long term. The 237 million rand had been added to the agricultural budget. The aid measures provided for the subsidization of interest of existing debt consolidation schemes which would also be applicable to the agricultural credit board's aid programs to improve the cash flow of farmers.

Farmers removed from emergency grazing lists since 31 March last year will be considered for a 3-year debt retention scheme at cooperatives. Aid under this scheme would include interest subsidies. Fodder loans farmers had at the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply would also be subsidized for 2 years. In the summer grain areas, interest subsidies were to be introduced on farmers' current production credit financed by commercial banks during the coming financial year. Mr Wentzel said interest subsidies on production credit at agricultural cooperatives for the 1987-88 production season would be continued to farmers in drought-stricken areas under certain conditions. However, he said, the rehabilitation of agriculture pertaining to structural adjustments could not take place overnight. Money for this purpose would be made available over a certain number of years. A part of it had already been allocated for the present financial year.

The debt consolidation scheme at agricultural cooperatives had been made possible by an 8-million-rand government guarantee. In order to reduce the risk of the guarantee, agricultural cooperatives needed healthy capital creation. The Jacobs Committee had been ordered to investigate problems surrounding capital creation.

Official Reports Illegal Immigration Increasing

MB060828 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] The director general of the South African Department of Home Affairs, Mr Gerrie van Zyl says the number of illegal immigrants entering South Africa from neighboring states is increasing. He said the number of such illegals from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Swaziland last year was conservatively estimated at about 1.3 million. Dr Van Zyl said no country's economy could bear the burden of so many illegal aliens taking work from its own inhabitants. These people were systematically being repatriated. However, a total of 1,860 workers from Zimbabwe and Mozambique have been exempted from repatriation because of the long period they have worked in South Africa.

Information Bureau 5 March Unrest Report

MB060848 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0840 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 6 SAPA — The following is the unrest report from the Bureau of Information for the 24-period until midnight last night:

"Unrest related incidents reported during the abovementioned period comprised isolated stone throwing and a petrol bomb attack on a private home in Atteridgeville (Pretoria). No injuries or arrests resulted, and damage was reported as minimal in all cases."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB060450 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on Canada's Racial Problems

Commenting on an article by South Africa's ambassador to Canada, Glenn Babb, "listing all the bad things that have happened to the Indians in Canada," Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 5 March says in a page 4 editorial that "The Canadians, the Americans, the Australians and others smugly go on with their daily lives, virtually ignoring the racial problems in their own backyards." The point is not that "South Africa is any better in racial matters than Canada — it is patently far worse — but we can rectify our mistakes, and are doing so, and our people of colour will one day share completely in this country's riches. Meanwhile, Canada, which has its own problems, should not throw stones at us."

STAR Supports Local Option

Commenting on the provincial government's overruling of the Pietersburg Town Council's decision to close the town's cinema rather than open it to all races, Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 5 March says in a page 16 editorial that while the move prevented "a sacrifice on residents for the sake of maintaining discriminatory apartheid," "this example does not mean government should bulldoze South Africans into accepting its views on everything. The local option is essential as part of the apparatus for protecting individual rights, and it must be interfered with

only where one group is taking decisions that interfere with the rights of others in their community."

STAR on Right-Wing Unity

"It is quite remarkable that the two far-right parties, facing their biggest election opportunity yet, should remain locked in acrimonious contention and may end up opposing each other — to their mutual cost and the country's immense benefit — in many seats," *The Star* says in a second editorial on the same page. "Even more odd is that the mantle of peacemaker should come to rest on the shoulders of the fire-eating Mr Eugene Terreblanche."

DPSC Terms Election 'Farce'

"An election in which major issues of the day cannot be publicly discussed or reported is a farce. How can the electorate make up its mind if it is ignorant of what is going on?" The Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) asks in a column on the same page. "Just how meaningless this election is is illustrated by the clampdown on the news media; but more to the point, three-quarters of the population is excluded. The effect of the present suppression in our country may be likened to a blind man riding a sightless horse into a bottomless abyss."

BUSINESS DAY Urges Namibian Independence

"The logic of South African policies demands that, sooner or later, Namibia will be launched into sovereign independence. The time for decolonisation of the territory is long past, and independence is delayed only by the unwillingness of the South African Government to accept a plebiscite," Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 5 March says in a page 6 editorial. Namibian authorities have now moved to tighten their control over fishing companies operating in Namibian waters, although the extent of the move is not yet clear. "South African corporations might as well accept that this is the beginning, not the end. The demands for reinvestment of profits in the Namibian economy, for the employment of Namibians, and for the training of local employees bear a distinct similarity to demands made of foreign investors by black people in South Africa in recent years — and by the Afrikaner in earlier decades. They should be seen not only as normal, but as legitimate." The prospects for a South African or foreign company "operating normally and profitably would be far better in an independent Namibia than in a resentful and suspicious colony."

BUSINESS DAY on Financial Rand Gains

"If the financial rand [FR] consolidates the gains it has made in the past week, it will be possible to say with confidence that there has been an improvement in the overseas political perceptions of this country. The FR discount to the commercial rand, which is essentially a measure of those perceptions, has declined from 54 percent in mid-January to around 44 percent now," *Business Day* says in a second page 6 editorial. "It is not yet clear precisely how this is manifesting itself. It could be in higher demand for SA's high-yielding gilts, or for gold shares, or both. But yesterday's firmness of gold share prices in New York and London indicates strongly that the yield is now high enough to outweigh the political discount."

CAPE TIMES on 'New Nat'-PFP Cooperation

"There is an understandable degree of nervousness in Nationalist circles at what is seen as an over-close relationship between the so-called 'New Nats' and the Progressive Federal Party. The reason is simply that the emergence of independent former Nationalist candidates, particularly in what one might call the revolt of the Near Boland, poses a major threat to certain Nationalist seats. And it is obvious enough that if traditional opposition support, primarily PFP, can be thrown behind these breakaway figures, certain Nationalists, including at least one cabinet minister are in the grave danger of being without a job on May 7," Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 4 March says in a page 6 editorial. It would seem "an eminently wise and prudent policy for the PFP not to barge in and split the vote where independents appear to have a chance of beating Botha candidates. This is not to say that the PFP should be locked in a passionate embrace with Denis Worrall, Wynand Malan, Esther Lategan, and other 'New Nats' waiting in the wings. No, it means that this country's crisis requires acceptance that people of goodwill with differing views can and will work together, in some measure, to throw off the arrogant, dated and bankrupt Botha hold on the country."

Pik Botha Urged To Leave NP

"The time is right for Mr Pik Botha to make his move. With defections by impatient reformists from the ossifying National Party now virtually a daily occurrence, a 'leap of faith' by a leader with Mr Botha's popular support could add a whole new dimension to the simmering rebellion," Anthony Johnson writes in his "Midweek Politics" column on the same page. "A defection now by Mr Botha to the ranks of the reformers — where he clearly belongs — would open the floodgates by allowing thousands of hesitant reformists within the party to make the critical leap. This could help break the logjam that establishment white politics finds itself in and pave the way for significant new alignments by 1989 when the next general election is due." "Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching the rebellion in the NP gathering steam, he should join the bandwagon and give it the momentum and leadership necessary to hasten the inevitable."

SOWETAN on Workers' Battle

Commenting on the settlement of the strike staged by OK Bazaar workers and the new wage agreement negotiated between Pick 'n Pay and the Commercial, Catering, and Allied Workers Union in an editorial on page 4, Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 5 March notes: "The workers in this country still have a long battle to fight. With the type of dedication and spirit that the workers have shown in recent industrial action we are sure they will overcome their battles. It is about time that management realised that workers, especially black workers, have worked long for low wages, and suffered under terrible conditions to earn a living. We have had problems not only at the workplace but invariably on our way to and from work. The sacrifices we are prepared to undergo are a result of long years of working like slaves."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Accuses RSA of Planning 'Massive' Attack

MB051215 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The president, Dr Kaunda, has cancelled a trip to Ghana today as a result of massive military program which apartheid South Africa has drawn up against Zambia. Comrade Kaunda, who was to be the chief guest at the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of Ghana's independence in Accra tomorrow, disclosed that South African agents planned to take advantage of his absence to launch a massive military attack against the Zambian Government.

Dr Kaunda has asked the prime minister, Kebby Musokotwane, to represent Zambia at the celebrations which start tomorrow.

The president told the (?journalist) of the Johannesburg *Star* (Barndon Phiri) in an interview at State House that he would not discuss the issue further because the South Africans would have an idea of how much he knew about their dirty plans.

Comrade Kaunda told Mr Phiri that Zambia would not give in to the pressures of apartheid even with intensified acts of aggression by South Africa on her and her neighbors in the region. He praised the Zambian defense and security forces for being alert, saying they were doing a tremendous job.

Comrade Kaunda also dismissed rumors of a secret deal between South Africa and Zambia in connection with the recent release of four South African agents by the Zambian Government.

ZIMBABWE

Chissano Says Malawi Forces To Protect Routes

MB051721 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 5 Mar 87 p 1

[By Robin Drew of *The Star*'s Africa News Service]

[Text] Harare — Security forces from Malawi are to join in operations in Mozambique to defend transport routes to the sea from attack by rebels of the MNR.

President Chissano of Mozambique revealed this in an interview in *The Herald* today in which he confirmed that Tanzanian soldiers had begun to arrive in Mozambique as part of the anti-rebel drive.

Thousands of Zimbabwean soldiers are already stationed there.

Until recently Mozambique and other Frontline States have accused Malawi of being a major rear base for MNR forces.

It is understood from other sources that the Malawian security forces will be engaged in protecting the railway line to the northern port of Nacala.

President Chissano said the agreement reached with Dr Banda's government meant Malawian security forces would be physically involved in protecting the route to Nacala.

He said: "It is in their interest to make sure their outlet to the sea is free of bandits. Both of us will benefit from this."

He did not elaborate on Tanzania's participation.

Mozambique has also appointed a resident ambassador to Malawi.

A military attache will be appointed to the embassy staff.

President Chissano said "most encouraging military developments" had taken place in the past three months.

A recent Mozambican operation had put a halt to plans for the rebels to occupy some coastal centres in Zambezia which they had intended to use to get supplies by sea.

They might try again, he said but they had been stopped for the moment.

Meets Press, Departs

MB051217 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique says military equipment is required for logistics and combat against MNR bandits in Mozambique. President Chissano was speaking at a news conference in Harare today at the end of his 4-day state visit to Zimbabwe. The Mozambican leader noted that there are many countries such as Nigeria at Mozambique's disposal in terms of providing military forces. He said Mozambique is satisfied with the present operations against the MNR, adding that forces from outside the Frontline States are not needed. However, Comrade Chissano said material contributions to facilitate the liquidation of the bandits are required.

President Chissano said Mozambique will not renounce the Nkomati nonagression agreement with South Africa because it has made it difficult for the Pretoria regime to give open support to the bandits. On Mozambique's relations with Zimbabwe, Comrade Chissano said these will be set up at the level of mass organizations and specific associations such as the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Friendship Association.

Comrade Chissano said his country is aiming at economic recovery by negotiating for a loan with the IMF. He also announced that the United Nations has initiated a donors conference for Mozambique to raise $200 million. The conference will be held in Geneva next month. The Mozambican leader also said his country will attend the Commonwealth conference to be held next October. Meanwhile, Comrade Chissano has left Zimbabwe for Luanda, Angola. He was seen off at the airport by the president, Comrade Canaan Banana; the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe; his deputy, Comrade Simon Muzenda; government ministers; and members of the diplomatic corps.